

NORTH ISLINGTON MATERNITY CENTRE AND SCHOOL FOR MOTHERS.

There are 1,200 Infant Welfare Centres, or Schools for Mothers, or Babies' Welcomes (whichever you like to call them, they are practically interchangeable terms) in the kingdom. No doubt all are doing excellent work.

Having a little time and much inclination, and having consulted the Superintendent on the telephone as to her convenience in the matter, I paid a visit to the North Islington School on June 28th. During the five years of its existence it has grown rapidly. The premises consist of two adjoining semi-detached houses in Manor Gardens, which stand in a fair-sized garden. The exquisite cleanliness and order of the whole place is the first thing that strikes the visitor. The next is the extreme cordiality and courtesy of the Superintendent, Miss Le Geyt, who, although obviously very busy, takes her visitors round—there were several on this occasion—explaining everything with pardonable pride. There are rooms of a good size for every purpose: Weighing-rooms, consultation-rooms, lecture-rooms, a room for social gatherings.

There are three main factors in every school for mothers, namely:—1. Infant consultations. 2. Classes. 3. Home visiting. This forms the basis of all the rest of the work. Here, as elsewhere, great attention is paid to these essentials. But the activities of the North Islington School do not end here. Dinners for expectant and nursing mothers are provided by the Invalid Kitchens of London, which rent four rooms at the school. The L.C.C. also use it as a dental clinic for elementary school children two or three times a week. One of the nurses is employed to attend the dentist and keep the records. Another room is fitted up as a surgery for the treatment of minor ailments and for the instruction of the mothers in such treatment.

The records of the Centre are kept by means of a card index system. Case papers take the form of cards—pink for girls, blue for boys, grey for the expectant mothers, and white for the visitors. A chart of the child's weight is attached to the case paper.

The staff includes the Superintendent and several other nurses, some of them resident. About thirty-seven voluntary workers, most of whom are visitors, also two women medical officers. The most recent development of the work is an infants' ward with accommodation for about fifteen ailing babies. Children who are not ill enough to be taken into a hospital, and yet require to be under observation and have skilled care and attention. Dr. Truby King has visited the school and given an address there. His comment is that it is *first-rate*—the real thing. From such an authority this is praise indeed, and Miss Le Geyt values it as such. Certainly no Institution of the kind could be *better*.

B. K.

POST GRADUATE WEEK FOR MIDWIVES AT YORK ROAD LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

On June 26th, a party of post-graduates visited Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital. Here they were received most courteously by the Matron, who deputed one of the Sisters to escort the numerous visitors round the wards of the hospital.

Many interesting cases were pointed out and described, the midwives eagerly reading the notes on the very comprehensive case papers. The babies, as usual, came in for a large amount of admiration, for midwives like mothers, seem to have an inexhaustible stock of love for infants, and one unusually fine or charming drew forth universal appreciation. The tiny "prem" was in a tent made of blankets and warmed by an electric lamp. At Queen Charlotte's they do not use incubators. Blankets are considered preferable to cotton covering on account of their being porous.

One small ward was a centre of interest, as it contained two Cæsarian section cases, and one bad case of mitral disease.

The labour wards are roomy and thoroughly equipped, and are used in turn. This arrangement enables each ward to be thoroughly "spring cleaned" each month.

Adjoining the hospital is the ante-natal and infant clinic department.

At the conclusion of the visit, tea was most kindly provided by the Matron, in the pupils' lecture room, and so a very instructive and pleasant afternoon was brought to a close.

EXAMINATION.

As the result of the examination held at the conclusion of the week, the first prize was awarded to Mrs. Walters (trained at the General Lying-in Hospital) and the second prize to Mrs. McLaren.

A nursery hospital for 15 babies suffering from marasmus, &c., has been opened under the auspices of the Birmingham Public Health Committee. It affords an opportunity for gaining or increasing experience in the treatment and physiological feeding advocated by Dr. Holt and Dr. Eric Pritchard. Volunteers interested in this form of war work may write for particulars to Miss Margesson, Nursery Hospital, Barnt Green, near Birmingham.

The Midwives Bill, to amend the Midwives Act, 1902, was considered by the House of Lords in Committee on July 2nd. On the motion of the Marquess of Salisbury the contentious and objectionable Clause (Clause 12) was struck out of the Bill. Lord Salisbury then moved the insertion of a new Clause, *i.e.*, "Section nine of the principal Act (which enables county councils to delegate their powers and duties to district councils) shall be repealed." So far so good. Friends of midwives must now watch the Bill in the House of Commons.

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