

only gave her services, but bore all the expenses of the good work. Others voluntarily joined her, and a Sisterhood of seven members was formed to continue the work, Mrs. Newcomen, of Kirkleatham, being the head as Mother Superior of the community. Shortly afterwards the hospital at North Ormesby, containing 20 beds, was built by public subscription, and in the course of 60 years has been extended to the present noble institution with 110 beds.

"The first sister in charge," continues Mr. Waynman Dixon, "was Sister Elizabeth, who for thirty-five years superintended all the work, and was really 'The Angel in the House.' Her stately presence, sympathetic nature, and winning smile so won the hearts of the working men of Middlesbrough that they soon arranged that at all the works in the neighbourhood one penny per week should be deducted from each man's wages towards the support of the Hospital. These good ladies of the Sisterhood, with their successors, in 'weariness and painfulness and in watching oft,' have continued the work up to the present jubilee, and in the course of sixty years have treated over 100,000 patients. From what small beginnings do great things grow. Their influence on the life of the working men community is untold, for not only have they healed the wounds, but mended the lives of countless numbers of their patients. When an extension was required for out-patients in 1892, the workmen of Middlesbrough 'got up early one morning and built a hospital before breakfast'—that is to say, every workman contributed a quarter-day's pay, and thus raised a sum of £750 towards the cost. All the original members of the Sisterhood have gone to their rich reward, but the community goes on, and there are still those who have been in the work for forty years, assisted by three head nurses of very long standing."

The annual sale of work for the Norwich District Nursing Association at Tombland, now known as the Cavell Home, was held last week at the headquarters. The maintenance of district nursing associations is a very serious business in these days of increased expenses in all directions, and the institution was never so much in need of funds as at the present time.

Amongst the stallholders were the Lady Mayoress, who sold fancy work and glass, and the Matron and nurses were kept busily employed in connection with their stall of miscellaneous articles.

## THE ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE AND THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

For more than 40 years since the Public Health Act of 1876 came into operation the Royal Sanitary Institute has been co-operating with the Public Health Service of the country, and has noted the steady progress made in methods and organisation both official and voluntary for improving the health of the people.

At a recent meeting of the Council the progress made with regard to the Bill for the establishment of a Ministry of Health was under consideration, and the following resolution was passed:—

The health of the people being of paramount importance in the progress of the nation, the Council of the Royal Sanitary Institute have noted with great satisfaction the progress that has been made and the valuable work accomplished during the past fifty years by the various departments dealing with public health.

The rapid development under present conditions of the many subsidiary factors affecting the question, and the complexity of the interests involved make it essential, for the effective continuance and development of the work, that so far as possible all matters relating to public health should be co-ordinated in one department as a Ministry of Health.

The Council therefore desire to urge that the matter is one of pressing public importance, and trust that it may receive the early attention of His Majesty's Government.

## A HISTORETTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRESS IN NEW ZEALAND.

We have pleasure in publishing the following Historette of Public Health Progress in New Zealand from Miss H. Maclean, who is an expert in all matters of Health, Nursing, and Midwifery in the Dominion:—

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, HOSPITALS, AND CHARITABLE AID.

Wellington, N.Z.,

July 30th, 1918.

DEAR MADAM,—In the account of the first of a series of lectures on Infant Care in your issue of May 11th I read in the concluding paragraph under "National Baby Week Council," the following:—

The death-rate of infants under one year in New Zealand has been reduced from 80-50 per 1,000 by Dr. Truby King, who has been instructing the people in mothercraft for eight or nine years.

While giving every credit to Dr. Truby King, with whose work I am thoroughly familiar, for a large share in the reduction of the infant death-rate in New Zealand, I would like to give some prominence to the even earlier commencement of decrease in the death-rate attributable:

1. To the work of the Department of Public Health, which has improved the sanitary condition

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)