

The Midwife.

THE RACHEL McMILLAN BABY CAMP AND DAY NURSERIES.

The Queen is showing continued interest in all that affects the health of the nation, and on Friday afternoon last week visited the Rachel McMillan Baby Camp and Day Nurseries at Church Street, Deptford.

Her Majesty, who had a warm welcome from the inhabitants, who assembled in large numbers when her visit became known, was received by the founder of the institution, Miss Margaret McMillan. The Queen was delighted with the nurseries, and watched the children at tea and at play, and showed a keen interest in the babies and their nurses, showing special appreciation of the open playground in which flowers are growing.

The Queen stopped to look at the "Treasure Cots," which have the advantage that they can be folded up when not in use. They can also be easily packed. Her Majesty told Miss McMillan that a woman once told her she had had eleven children but she had never had a cradle, and did not believe in them. "I've had six children," said the Queen, "and I found it necessary to have a cradle. I believe in them."

Over 75 per cent. of the babies are rickety on entrance, and 50 per cent. verminous. But under healthy conditions and daily bathing they improve rapidly. The camp for the three-year olds is in the hands of a trained nurse; games, singing, talks, modelling, and suitable work and play make the time pass quickly. The older children from five to seven are in the camp school, and they learn modelling, drawing, and gardening under a skilled teacher. The camp is a happy place. We could do with more.

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY CONFERENCE.

Midwives will be interested to learn that the Ninth Annual Nursing and Midwifery Conference and Exhibition will again be held this year. Before the war, it was held at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster; but, this year, as our readers will have noted, it is to be at the St. Andrew's Hall, Newman Street, Oxford Street, W. Midwives will no doubt look out for the Stall of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, where they will find this Journal, with its Midwife Supplement, and meet old friends. The Exhibition will be open from noon to nine each day, from April 28th to May 2nd (inclusive).

NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A General Meeting of the above League, and its constituent sections, is to be held in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall Hall, London, E.C.

(by kind permission of the Lord Mayor and Corporation) on Monday, April 14th, 1919, at 3 p.m. The programme includes the opening remarks of the Chairman (the Lord Mayor), speeches by Major and Hon. Waldorf Astor, M.P., and Viscountess Rhondda, on the Ministry of Health, followed by a speech by the Lady Ampthill on the proposals of the British Red Cross Society for helping the civil population in peace.

NATIONAL BABY WEEK COUNCIL.

This meeting will be followed by a short meeting of the National Baby Week Council to receive the report of the Executive Committee, which will include the programme for Baby Week celebrations this year.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR INFANT AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Central Council for Infant and Child Welfare, constituted of representatives of a number of voluntary associations, has as its objects:—

(1) To co-ordinate the work of the various national and local voluntary organisations concerned in the care of motherhood, infancy, and childhood, by organising the supply and distribution of funds and workers, both voluntary and salaried.

(2) To establish, supervise, and maintain, with the help of Government grants and payments by beneficiaries, such residential institutions, or to make such other arrangements for the benefit of mothers and young children, as the constituent societies may from time to time find necessary.

(3) To provide and promote a standardisation of training for social welfare workers in connection with motherhood, infancy, and childhood, and to raise the status and remuneration of the workers.

The Societies represented on the Council are:— Association of Infant Welfare and Maternity Centres, Babies of the Empire Society, Children's Jewel Fund, Incorporated Midwives' Institute, Invalid Children's Aid Society, National Baby Week Council, National Council for the Unmarried Mother and Her Child, National Health Society, National League for Health, Maternity, and Child Welfare, National Society of Day Nurseries, National Society for the Prevention of Infant Mortality.

The Chairman of the Council is Sir Arthur Stanley, the Secretary Miss Rundle, and the offices for the present will be at 83, Pall Mall.

It seems incredible, but so it is, that no Society of Trained Nurses is represented upon this Council, formed to promote the welfare of infants and children.

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