

The Midwife.

BABIES OF THE EMPIRE TRAINING CENTRE.

VISIT FROM THE QUEEN.

On Saturday last the Queen honoured the Babies of the Empire Training Centre, 29, Trebovir Road, Earl's Court, with a visit, when the Superintendent, Dr. Truby King, explained to Her Majesty the plan of work of the Centre in the scientific care and feeding of babies, and the training of nurses—and others—in the treatment and rearing of children.

We learn that Dr. Truby King—who, with the Matron, Miss Patrick, came over from New Zealand to give practical demonstration of the methods of baby culture taught at this training centre—is shortly retiring from its direction, when it will be carried on under the superintendence of Dr. J. S. Fairbairn, Obstetric Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital, with Miss Liddiard as Matron. This special training, as heretofore, will be available for nurses and others, wherever trained.

A NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INFANT WELFARE.

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THE ILLEGITIMATE CHILD.

Sir John Kirk presided at the Morning Session of the National Conference on Infant Welfare, at the Kingsway Hall, W.C., on Thursday, July 3rd, and the readers of papers were Lady Nott Bower, Mr. Robert Parr (N.S.P.C.C.), and the Bishop of Kensington.

Sir John observed that the mother bears the penalty and the man escapes; matters were not improved by penalising the mothers; every child is a matter of national concern. He based his appeal on the right of every life to self-expression; and hoped the antipathy of married mothers for unmarried ones might be removed, and more hospitals and hostels be established. In conclusion he drew attention to the need of reform in the legitimacy laws.

THE DESTITUTE UNMARRIED MOTHER.

Lady Nott Bower enumerated three great difficulties of the destitute, unmarried mother—(1) provision for her confinement; (2) provision of care and maintenance for her child; and (3) to obtain support from the father.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASPECT.

Mr. Parr proposed that illegitimate children be made Wards of Court. The Registrar of Births would communicate with police and the Collecting Officer arrange with the father about provision for mother and child. Mr. Parr, speaking after twenty years' experience, said it was not so diffi-

cult as imagined, especially if a meeting between the man and the woman could be arranged. He referred to the Bill drafted by Mr. Clark Hall and one on the same subject by Mr. Sherwood.

THE PROTECTION OF THE INNOCENT.

The Bishop of Kensington, in an inspired address, said we must, as a nation, accept the Christian view of protecting the innocent; till now we had lost sight of the innocent in a wish to punish the guilty. The problem is the problem of substituting RIGHT THINKING for wrong thinking, and the whole community must accept responsibility for the standard of thought; therefore, we must raise the moral standard and practice of the whole community; we are each parts of the whole.

The Medical Officer of Health for Willesden (Dr. Nash) showed great insight when he drew attention to the necessity for fostering mother love in the unmarried mother, which could only be accomplished by keeping mother and child together.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher presided at the Afternoon Meeting, when the speaker was Mrs. Gotto, O.B.E.

THE SAME CHANCE FOR ALL.

Mrs. Gotto insisted that all citizens should have the same chance of birth; if we raised the standard of motherhood, we must not differentiate. Statistics from Australia disproved the contention that, by attending to the needs of the illegitimate child, illegitimate births would increase. Mrs. Gotto classified the seven groups of unmarried mothers, beginning with the victims of bigamous marriages. It is in the interest of the country, she maintained, to return the unmarried mother to the country as a self-respecting and self-supporting citizen. Remedies suggested—socially and legally. Socially, by carrying out permissive legislation; legally, by legitimising the child if parents marry after its birth (as in Scotland); by making the State responsible to establish paternity or take the place of the father (done successfully in Norway and in two of our Dominions). Improve laws of inheritance and adoption.

CRIMINAL ABORTION.

Dr. Whitley attributed high infant death-rate in this country to criminal abortion, syphilis and alcohol. He greatly impressed the audience by descriptions of the ease with which these murderous practices are carried on. Unsuccessful attempted abortion perpetuates the worst type of a degenerate race.

THE UNWANTED BABE.

Miss Cox summarised the tragic history of the unmarried mother, both before and after the birth of her child.

J. B. N. P.

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