

BABY CLINIC DISTRICTS, FRANCE.

Speaking of Queen's Nurses reminds us of the excellent work being done by two former Queen's Nurses—Miss C. C. du Sautoy, Chef de Section, Service des Blessés et Réfugiés, Comité Britannique, Croix Rouge Française, and Lady Hermione Blackwood—in the devastated districts in France. We have received some charming pictures of their "party" day, for the mothers and babies who have attended their Baby Clinic at Chateau St. Anne, Pierrefonds, Oise, since it was started last January. The babies are wonderfully well, especially when the stress and storm of their pre-natal life is realised, and some were actually born during air raids.

The Clinic takes babies under three, and many mothers bring two and some three, as twins abound in the neighbourhood. Several women have walked eight kilometres week after week. Lorries are sent, turn about, to the villages to fetch them to the Clinic, but there are 36 villages to help, so the turn for each does not come very often; even though three lorries are generally sent each Saturday.

On the first party day, 52 mothers out of a possible 56 responded to the invitation and over 70 babies. On the second day there were 58 mothers out of a possible 62 and about 80 babies.

Each mother received a pound of rice, a tin of sardines, and a tin of milk, and each baby a coloured hair ribbon, six garments and a toy. Coffee with milk and sugar, and bread and jam were provided for the visitors.

Every baby was numbered on arrival, and before leaving each woman voted for the baby she considered the most beautiful, excluding her own. The babies chosen were beautiful specimens (French mothers know about babies). About twenty-five of the mothers had made every possible attendance, and they received special gifts.

DR. TRUBY KING TO SAVE POLAND'S BABIES.

Dr. Truby King has been invited to undertake a mission to Poland, to help the babies, by the Friends' War Victims Relief Committee, and leaves next week for Vienna. He will be accompanied by Miss Jentie B. N. Paterson, who has recently passed through the special course of training at the Babies of the Empire Centre, and is thoroughly acquainted with the scientific system of baby feeding taught and practised by Dr. Truby King. The unit is in charge of Lieut.-Colonel Goodall.

NURSING ECHOES.

The Lord Mayor of Newcastle (Mr. A. Munro Sutherland) presided recently at a public meeting in the Newcastle Town Hall, which was held for the purpose of inaugurating the "Edith Cavell Memorial Fund" for the Northern counties.

Sir Thomas Oliver (chairman of the Central Committee) paid a warm tribute to the work of the nurses, and said that, as far as he knew, nothing of a tangible nature had been done for them. It seemed to him that the time had come when an effort should be made to assist trained hospital nurses, medical and surgical, military and civil, who, through illness or age, were unable to follow their vocation, or who from other causes found themselves in need. Trained nurses, he said, were not so highly paid that out of their salaries they could save sufficient money to provide for old age and sickness.

Their proposition was that a fund should be established to provide annuities and gratuities to nurses who were in necessitous circumstances. The committee offered to such a fund £850 Victory War Loan as a lead-off. He was wishful that that public meeting should endorse the action and associate itself with the committee, which would pledge itself to raise—even in these trying times—additional funds, so that annuities of £20 to £30 may be given to benefit nurses, and gratuities of £10 to others.

On the motion of Sir Thomas Oliver, seconded by Dr. J. Wishart, it was unanimously agreed to establish an annuity and gratuity fund in memory of Nurse Edith Cavell for the benefit of nurses, who, through illness, age, or infirmity, were unfitted for further work.

We have no doubt that long ere this the Lord Mayor of Newcastle has been informed that nurses are being snowed under by charity funds, and that, as a community, they are becoming very apprehensive of this method of keeping them out of the workhouse. We seldom open a newspaper without being banged in the eye by flaring (paid for) advertisements of the Nation's Fund for Nurses, and the excuse advanced that skilled nursing is so poorly paid for, that trained nurses cannot save sufficient money to provide for old age, is accepting a thoroughly unsound economic condition, and encouraging persons using their services to do so at a sweated wage. We do not cavil at the impulse of charitably disposed

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)