

## The Midwife.

### HOME FOR UNWANTED BABIES.

How appealing is even the title of this Home, which, since June last, has been carrying on its work at "Tower Cressy," Aubrey Road, Campden Hill.

An unwanted baby! Could anything be more pathetic? That is to say, they are unwanted by the mothers that gave them birth and to whom they have become a sore burden too heavy to bear alone. Deserted by her sometime lover—looked askance at by her friends if her trouble is known, or else living in constant fear of its discovery—the ever-increasing expenses, the difficulty of finding foster mothers—all these factors tend to dwarf the primal maternal instinct in the unmarried mother, which, in happier circumstances, would make her fight for the possession of her young with her last breath. It is to relieve what is, in so many cases an intolerable position, that the National Adoption Society has been formed, and in connection with which "Tower Cressy" is a sort of clearing house.

Twenty-two children can here be received, and since June last one hundred have been adopted from this Home alone. It gives pause to consider whether "Unwanted Babies" is quite the right title for them, for the majority of them merely pass through the Home into the hands of the adopters which are eagerly stretched out to receive them.

Delicate young infants, sturdy little boys capering about the nursery, there they are, oblivious of the past behind them, careless of the future in front of them, indifferent alike of maybe a mother's desolate, broken heart, and to the childless homes they will go to gladden; unconscious, they suck their bottles or play with their toys while Fate weaves their destiny.

It goes without saying that the junction, so to speak, of their lives is in every way desirable; and were the little passengers consulted, they would no doubt resent having to change trains. The house stands at the top of Campden Hill, and is itself of a great height with balconies all round, from which glorious views can be obtained. From the roof, unbelievable vistas open out and the nurses who were there, spending their off duty time in deck chairs with books, showed a great deal of wisdom, commanding as they did a variety of outlook that would be difficult to rival in London.

On the lower floors, of course, the balconies were ideal for the children of different ages and sizes, who were sleeping or playing in the glorious spring sunshine. The infants' nursery was furnished with "Treasure" cots, which had fine embroidered white coverlets.

The bath rooms had jolly little white enamelled baths, and the sponge for each child was in its

rack on the wall, labelled with its name, "Billy," "Pussy," &c., giving a homely touch to the necessities of life. The bottles are prepared in a special room for the purpose. Sad that such a work as this Home stands for should be needed, but no one who has been in close touch with the seamy side of life can doubt its necessity and humanity.

The Matron, Miss Florence A. Borrett, who has recently served four years in Egypt as a member of the Registered Nurses Society, is keenly interested in the work, and most kindly explains its special features to the visitors that she continually welcomes.

She is assisted by a nursing staff who have had experience in children's hospitals. Luckily, so far, there has been little use for the Isolation Ward, which is very much isolated at the top. The founder of the scheme, Miss Clara Andrew, who is occupied during the day at 19, Sloane Street, has a charming flat at the top of "Tower Cressy," from which again the view is unique.

It ought to be stated that, before receiving children for adoption, they must be medically examined and their history gone into and furnished to the prospective adopters. It need hardly be said that there is a long waiting list. First children only are received, and of the applications many hundreds are turned down.

All honour to those who have stretched out a helping and discerning hand to a most pitiable section of society. H. H.

### LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE MIDWIVES' ASSOCIATION.

#### FIXTURES FOR 1920.

*April 14th.*—Meeting at the City Municipal Maternity Home. Speaker, Dr. MacMillan. Subject, "The Midwife as a Worker in the Maternity and Welfare Scheme." Tea.

*May 12th.*—Speaker, Mrs. Billson. Subject, "Venereal Disease: What It Means and How It May be Overcome."

*June 9th.*—Speaker, Miss F. Rich, M.A. Subject, "The Life of a Great Scientific Man." Tea and meeting at Granville School, Leicester.

*July 14th.*—Day picnic at St. George's Rest Cottage, Ashby Parva.

*September.*—Tea and meeting by invitation of Mrs. George Hilton, "Lyndhurst," Belgrave. Speaker, Mrs. Cardinal Taylor. Subject, "Co-operation with the City Maternity and Child Welfare Committee."

*October.*—Speaker, Doctor Gertrude Austin.

*November 10th.*—Speaker, Mr. Hincks, "The Vagrancy Problem."

*December 8th.*—Nurse Read. Subject, "The Things We Should Do."

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