

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

THE NATION'S MOTHERS AND BABIES.

It is more than six months ago since the Infant Welfare Centre in connection with Guy's Hospital was opened.

Though adjoining the Hospital it is self-contained and self-administered. Sister Martin, who is in charge, holds the certificate of Guy's. After and since the completion of her training she spent four years in the American Hospital in Paris, where she gained valuable experience for the work which she now has in hand.

The building has been adapted from three dwelling-houses which were the property of the hospital, and the transformation is so complete that it is difficult to imagine their former status.

The ground floor contains the necessary waiting, consulting- and weighing-rooms and offices, and, though the space is somewhat limited, the best use has been made of them.

The first floor is devoted to the Sister-in-Charge and her staff, and wonders have been accomplished in producing bright and cheerful rooms in a neighbourhood that is not famed for inspiration.

It is distempered throughout in a warm cream colour, and the staircase is laid in green mosaic. The rooms for the staff contain some one bed, and some two, and are prettily furnished, but with due regard to the enormous present-day prices.

The kitchen, scullery and bathroom are all to be found on this floor, which is in point of fact a very cosy, residential flat. A small annexe provides a cloakroom for the Health Visitors, so obviating the necessity of taking out-door garments into the bedroom, which, as every district nurse knows, is not desirable.

Training is given, for one year, to seven Guy's certificated nurses, who also hold the C.M.B. certificate. They are paid £50, and at the end of their year they are given a special certificate. At present they attend lectures at the Royal Sanitary Institute to qualify for the Health Visitors' certificate, but eventually it is hoped that these lectures will be provided in their own hospital. In the autumn twenty students of the International Red Cross, who are now being trained at King's College for Women, will attend the Centre for special instruction in Infant Welfare.

The ante-natal work forms by far the larger portion of the Centre's activities, as it covers the whole of the Guy's maternity area, where 3,000 cases are attended in the year by either doctors or midwives.

This area, however, contains many welfare centres for post-natal work connected with various organisations, so that the preponderance of ante-natal work is readily explained.

By the courtesy of the Sister-in-Charge we were allowed to see the post-natal clinic in full swing, and we must pause to pay a tribute to these South London babies whom we had every opportunity of viewing, as they were lying in the sketchiest of covering in their mother's laps

waiting for their turn for the doctor's inspection. Wire baskets were attached to the back of the chairs for the cleanly disposal of the infant's clothing, which reminded one somehow of being in church, every mother thus having the use of the chair in front of her. There is no bribing at this centre, nothing is given away, and no tea is provided. The mothers are taught to come purely from an educational standpoint. No sick child is treated here, as in such case it is immediately transferred to the hospital side.

The doctor was hard at work when she kindly invited us to come into her consulting-room, and we were struck with the intimate "heart to heart" talk she was having with the mothers. She was urging four-hourly feeding, both from the point of view of the mother and child, as she lays it down that the quality of the milk is improved by the longer interval, also that the child's nervous system requires the longer rest. The mother, she said, must remember that sleep was more important than food. Lastly showing sympathy with her poorer sister's nature, she pointed out that she, the mother, would thus have more time to devote to her own needs and to making herself look pretty.

Sister Martin, who has had the entire organisation of the Clinic from its beginning is to be congratulated on interesting work, and on her pact and attractive "plant."

HOSPITALS ON THE RATES.

In the House of Commons, on Monday last, Dr. Addison introduced a Bill containing important provisions in relation to municipal hospitals, and enabling County Councils and County Borough Councils, if they think fit to maintain or contribute to the maintenance of hospitals. On August 11th, in reply to a question from Mr. Gilbert in the House of Commons as to whether the Government propose to bring in any legislation during the present Parliament dealing with the reform of the Poor Law, and in any way altering the composition of the bodies which now administer the existing laws, Dr. Addison replied in the affirmative.

PALMOLIVE.

Palmolive—a good name for a good thing, for Palmolive soap is made of the finest Olive Oil and Palm Oil scientifically blended, and the fact that it contains no free alkali, and lathers freely in hard water, makes it essentially a soap which should commend itself to nurses and midwives, whose duty and pride it is to keep the tender skins of infants and invalids in good condition.

The word Palmolive conjures up the view of stately palms tossing their graceful heads against a bright blue sky, or of leaves turned to silver in the tropical moonlight. The palm is the emblem of victory and of supreme excellence, and the olive of peace and purity. Palmolive soap (13 and 14, Great Sutton Street, E.C. 1) is well named.

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