

The Midwife.

THE WANDSWORTH BOROUGH MATERNITY HOME.

On Saturday last Her Majesty the Queen paid a visit to the Wandsworth Borough Maternity Home at Park Hill, Tooting, in which she showed deep interest. The Home is the Borough's Memorial to Wandsworth men who laid down their lives for the Empire during the war, and is intended primarily for those living in small houses and flats which are ill adapted for the exigencies of child bearing. The lowest charge will be £1 a week, which the maternity benefit under the National Insurance Act will cover, and the highest £4 a week. The Matron is Miss E. Waring.

WORK FOR THE RACE.

The Quarterly Report of Mrs. Breckinridge Director of Child Hygiene and Public Health Nursing in connection with the Comité Américain pour les Régions Devastées de la France, to that Committee is of interest.

BABY HYGIENE.

Concerning Baby Hygiene she writes:—"The School work will always be absorbing, but I think that if a survey were taken of our innermost hearts as nurses, it would be found that our deepest interest lay in the baby hygiene, and I know that in planning the work as a whole, Miss Walker and I stress that. We aim to see every one of our 749 babies at least once in two weeks, and our nurses' consultations are planned so as to include each village that often (though, of course, the feeding cases and the sick are seen oftener than that), and there is a weekly consultation, with a doctor in attendance, at our largest centres. To all baby clinics in all of our rural centres come also the youngsters of pre-school age, and to make them feel at home we have a lot of washable toys which have been bought with special funds. Ten dollars equips a dispensary with a large wooden horse, a celluloid doll in a crib, hygienically clothed and covered, and a number of wooden and rubber animals. Psychologically, their presence in the dispensaries is beyond all price, and our little ones, whose lives have been robbed of pleasure long enough, come to us gleefully and have the time of their lives with the animals, or putting the dolly to sleep while awaiting their turn

PRE-NATAL NURSING.

Next to the baby work in importance comes the pre-natal. These young mothers, old before their time from the ravages of war, need all the help a trained nurse can bring them, and we never forget that with them, as with the babies, it is the race itself whose welfare we are seeking, its amelioration, its progress, its security.

SOISSONS.

Concerning the work in the City of Soissons, Miss Walker, co-Director with Mrs. Breckinridge, who has made it her peculiar care, and developed it with extraordinary success, writes in part:—"In doing work like ours there is nothing more conducive to success than to have our aims understood, and to have good co-operation between us and those with whom we come in contact. I have just opened a letter from a mother in which she says: 'Thanks to the good care of your gracious nurse, and the excellent powdered milk which you have been giving me, I have saved my little girl.' Letters or incidents like this could be multiplied. Take the example of Sister Marguerite, of the Order of St. Vincent de Paul, who cares for the old people in the city, and refers the sick to our nurses so that we may visit them; or of the priest who has been for twenty-two years in one village, and whose influence is paramount there, who announced from his pulpit that he wished the mothers to take all babies and young children to the nurses' consultation, and explained that they must go even if they were well, in order to keep well. Take the incident of the *garde-champêtre*, or village crier, who refuses the usual fee for announcing the nurse's projected arrival because he wants to do his bit for the babies too; or the military officer who stops his car when he sees a nurse at her work to inquire what she is doing, and then thanks her, with a genuine ring of gratitude in his voice, in the name of France. Very precious to us always is the understanding of the doctors who see that in the new thing we are constructing we are not trying to supplant them, but to work with them and under their orders. As we go from street to street in Soissons, or from village to village outside, we are amazed at the reception and response we get from one and all, and we are grateful and very humble, for it is our privilege to have the opportunity of working side by side with a people who with marvellous courage have borne, and are still bearing, what to us seems to be more than their share of sorrow and discomfort."

NOTICE.

Owing to the large number of teachers wishing to join the Instruction Course, the inaugural meeting (November 22nd., 2 p.m.) and all the lectures and demonstrations which were to be at the Midwives Institute, will be held at the Royal Society of Arts, Adelphi Street (two minutes' walk from the Institute).

The Midwives Institute will, however, be the headquarters for the teachers.

Separate tickets for any lecture, except those held at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, may be had by Inspectors of Midwives or intending teachers from the Hon. Secretary, 2s. each.

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