

# The Midwife.

## THE MOTHERCRAFT TRAINING SOCIETY. MAISON MATERNELLE DE LA MARNE.

The Report of the Mothercraft Training Society (Babies of the Empire), 29, Trebovir Road, Earl's Court, S.W. 5, just published, founded by Dr. Truby King, C.M.G., is of much interest, for it is a record of a successful experiment for the cultivation of mothercraft in its highest form, and the saving of ill-nourished babies, justifying the belief of its founder that natural feeding of babies is practically the cure of all their ills. In consequence the Executive Committee are able to report that their sphere of influence has greatly extended. Doctors, Infant Welfare Centres, and other societies show their appreciation of the work by constantly sending difficult cases to the Society to deal with where breast feeding has either ceased or never been established.

The Committee are inundated with requests for nurses who have had the special training given by the Society, and the Out-patients' Department is steadily on the increase.

During the year ending October 31st, 1920, the number of babies admitted has been 99. Of these six have died. This is a higher death rate than last year, when there was only one death—the lowest record ever reached by any institution of the kind. But in each of the six cases the baby admitted was in a state of extreme weakness and wasting.

### SYNOPSIS OF THE WORK.

The work of the Society falls under the following headings:—

#### (a) Mothercraft Training.

1. Fully-trained qualified Nurses. Three months' course.
2. Certified Midwives. Six months' course.
3. Previously untrained women and girls. One year's course.
4. Mothers Expectant Mothers Potential Mothers Simple, short and practical courses in mothercraft, accompanied by demonstrations, are given by special arrangement.

#### (b) Propaganda. Literature, Lectures, Articles, and Demonstrations.

#### (c) Out-Patients' Department—for treatment and educational purposes.

### APPOINTMENTS IN NEW ZEALAND.

Since his return to New Zealand Dr. Truby King has been appointed Director of Child Welfare to the Dominion; Miss Patrick, the first Matron at Trebovir Road, has accepted the position of Director of Plunket Nursing for New Zealand, and Miss McMillan Matron of the Karitane Hospital.

On a recent visit to the devastated regions in France I was told that some of the best work there had been done by the "Friends" in the Maternity Hospital at Chalons-sur-Marne, and on the return journey from Verdun to Reims we made a slight detour, and stopped a train at this interesting old city, with its battered Cathedral and beautiful river bordered by wide paths, and avenues of trees.

It seemed at one time as if we should not get up to the hospital after all, and, when at last we induced the driver of a taxi to take us there, he seemed to think that an inspection of the surrounding walls was all we could desire, and said he had to be back in the town at a certain hour. We assured him that we had, also, in order to catch our train, which partly re-assured him, but he told us if we were long he would be gone when we returned to the road, and we passed through the gates with his parting injunction "allez vite, vite" pursuing us.

So there was only time for a hurried glimpse of the orderly wards, but time enough to see that a very good work was being carried on for the mothers and their babies, each snug in its own little cot, by both French and English nurses. Yet another link in the chain that unites the two nations in an Entente Cordiale.

It is therefore of interest to learn that a small committee of old Chalons workers has been formed, with Miss Edith M. Pye as Chairman, and Miss Marie H. MacColl as Hon. Secretary to strengthen the link between the Maternity in Chalons-sur-Marne and its friends in England. The work has now been handed over to a Committee of French people, together with five representatives of English and American friends. The new building is well on its way, and it is hoped that the Maternity, under its new name of Maison Maternelle de la Marne, will be installed there in May or June.

The Committee are appealing for a continuous supply of workers willing to give six months' voluntary service for the welfare of French mothers and babies, and to help to keep alive the ideals with which the work was started.

They do not propose to make any widespread appeal for funds, but would welcome any subscriptions sent to 19, Chepstow Villas, London, W. 11, that would enable them to show their continual good will by providing certain necessities for the mothers and babies. Knitted coats and bonnets for the "paquets" are specially needed.

It is a good work, and affords a practical means of proving our sympathy with the provinces of France which suffered so sorely in the war.

M. B.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)