

COLLEGE OF NURSING.

BIRMINGHAM THREE COUNTIES CENTRE.

On Thursday, November 10th, in the Board Room of the General Hospital, Birmingham (by kind permission of the Governors), Dr. Cassie gave an interesting and instructive lecture on the "Infant Welfare Movement."

The lecturer commenced her address by emphasising the necessity of nurses receiving instruction not only in Curative, but in Preventative work. She described the Infant Welfare movement in relation to Public Health, it being concerned with the well-being of children to the age of five years, and with women during the ante-natal period, labour and puerperium. The movement originated in France under State Control as a result of published statistics showing the high rate of infant mortality. It was started in England by voluntary effort, but is now recognised and subsidised by the municipal authorities. Dr. Cassie mentioned four causes as the principal factors in Infant Mortality:—(1) *Ignorance*, not only in relation to infants' diet and hygiene, but also as to ante-natal conditions, labour and puerperium; (2) *Poverty*, resulting in malnutrition of both mother and child; (3) *Bad housing and Hygiene*, providing conditions favourable for the spread of disease; (4) *Causes operating during the ante-natal period*. Syphilis responsible for still-births, abortions, miscarriages and deformities.

The foundation of Infant Welfare rests on home visiting by trained workers, as this is the only means of direct contact with the mother and child, the primary object being to establish breast feeding.

Centres were first established as Schools for Mothers, the work done at the Centres is educational and preventative, they are not suitable as clinics for the treatment of sick infants. The lecturer mentioned other activities as the result of the movement, as the inspection and supervision of the work of midwives, the inauguration of dental clinics, day nurseries, hostels for unmarried mothers and hospitals for babies.

At the conclusion of the lecture Dr. Cassie advocated that an Infant Welfare worker should be a trained nurse with a C.M.B. certificate, and a special knowledge of the diet and hygiene of infants. She proved the value of the work done by stating that in 1900 there were 156 deaths in every 1,000, whereas in 1920 the mortality has fallen to 80.

THE PASSING BELL.

The death occurred, on November 5th, at Earl's Court Square, S.W., of Major-General Sir George Joseph Hamilton-Evatt, K.C.B., A.M.S., retired, who will be remembered by many nurses for the keen interest which he took in the question of their State Registration. So long ago as the eighties General Evatt drafted a scheme in which he advocated the Registration of Nurses under State Authority, and he was a Vice-President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

Few people know of the good work which has been going on at the Queen's Hospital, Sidcup, Kent, for Sailors and Soldiers suffering from facial and jaw injuries, since August, 1917. Yet the work it has been doing in the treatment of Officers, Warrant Officers, N.C.O.'s, and Men suffering from this most distressing class of injuries has been valuable in the extreme. Next year it is hoped it will be in sight of completion, and an official record concerning its four years' work has been issued by the Committee.

The hospital was soon made a Central Military Hospital, and the special one for the United Kingdom for facial and jaw diseases, and the In-patient accommodation increased from 313 to 562 beds. In addition the following Auxiliary Hospitals were affiliated: Parkwood, Swanley, Oakley, Bromley, Abbey Lodge, Chislehurst, The Gorse, Chislehurst, and Southwood, Bickley, which provided another 400 beds, thus the Queen's Hospital had, in all, approximately 1,000 beds.

The Medical Officers in Charge of the Overseas Contingents at once applied that their officers and men might be treated at Sidcup, and separate units were established for Canadians, Australians, and New Zealanders, with their Medical Officers and Staff, and some four teams of American surgeons and dentists were for many months attached to the Queen's Hospital for the special training not obtainable elsewhere. Up to June 30th, 1921, no less than 11,752 major operations have been carried out.

Some idea of the permanent benefit and relief gained from the treatment received by a most grievously wounded class of men may be formed from the illustrations included in the Report of patients before and after treatment. In one case, especially, the patient's face on admission was a battered pulp, unrecognisable by his dearest friends, while after treatment his appearance was quite ordinary. We are told that these illustrations are chosen from a vast number as typical rather than exceptional ones, and the donors will realise that their gifts have been indeed well spent when they see the wonderful results achieved by surgical skill.

In addition, instructional workshops, a poultry farm, and commercial classes have been instituted for those patients able to take advantage of them, and a large number have also received instruction in foreign languages.

The hospital has had generous donations from Her Majesty the Queen, from a Fund at her disposal, the British Red Cross Society, the National Relief Fund, Sir Heath Harrison, and others: the Treasurer, Sir Charles Kenderine, having received approximately £213,000.

Most societies are finding it very difficult to hold on their way in these days, and we regret to say that the London Association for the Blind, 102, Dean Street, W.1., instituted in 1857, has

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