

The Midwife.

THE STEPNEY INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

The Duke of York, on Tuesday last, visited the Stepney Infant Welfare Centre and Babies' Home, at 587, Commercial Road, E., in support of which a ball was held on Wednesday, at the Hotel Victoria, Northumberland Avenue.

The Centre is doing very useful work in a very poor neighbourhood. The children are brought to it until they are five years old, thus they can have expert supervision from birth until they come under the observation of the School Medical Officer. This is a very important and necessary work, as it is found that at the age of five, unless children have had the advantage of medical supervision during the first five years of their lives, many defects which might easily have been remedied have become either permanent or much more difficult to cure.

ROTUNDA HOSPITAL, DUBLIN.

We are sure that graduates of the Rotunda Hospital School of Midwifery, and other friends of the Hospital, will be pleased to learn that a few members of the Nursing Staff have recently presented to the Hospital a photographic portrait in sepia of Miss Lucy Ramsden, formerly Lady Superintendent, as a mark of their affection and appreciation. The portrait, which is the work of Messrs. Stanley (Dublin), is suitably framed and inscribed, and has been hung in the Nurses' Sitting Room.

Miss Ramsden was trained at St. Thomas's Hospital, London. She was appointed Assistant Matron, Rotunda Hospital, in 1892. In 1895 she was appointed Sister-in-Charge of the Gynaecological Department, Thomas Plunket Cairnes Wing, which post she held for two years. In January, 1897, she was promoted to the office of Lady Superintendent, which post she resigned in 1918. She was thus in the responsible service of the Rotunda Hospital for nearly twenty-seven years. During that period the activities of the Hospital multiplied almost three-fold, so that Miss Ramsden's tenure was a period of continuously increasing responsibility and work.

It will be remembered that on the occasion of her resignation in 1918, the Governors of the Hospital passed a special resolution expressive of their high appreciation of her services and of their deep regret at her resignation. At the same time many members of the Nursing Staff in all parts of the world joined in presenting her with a very handsome silver tray as a mark of their esteem and grateful appreciation.

Miss Ramsden now resides in London, where

she takes an active interest in Child Welfare and kindred work.

"AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM."

Mr. Harold Cox, who has just returned from a brief visit to the United States, relates in the *Sunday Times* the true inwardness of the opposition to the meeting in New York which he was invited to address on the subject of birth control, for the express purpose of discussing whether birth control is morally justified. The special purpose of his visit was "to preach that it is impossible permanently to prevent war as long as the populations of the world increase at their present rate. Expanding races must seek new outlets for their industries, or new fields of emigration for their peoples. They thus come into conflict with other races, and the rivalry that ensues finally leads to war."

That birth control is morally justified is held by such high authorities as Dr. Gibbon FitzGibbon, Master of the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, and Lord Dawson, Physician to the King, whose speech on this subject aroused so much interest at the Church Congress in October.

Mr. Harold Cox states that the hall in New York, where the proposed meeting was to have been held, was filled some time before the hour of opening, and a crowd was in the streets trying to get in; there were no disorderly elements of any kind. "Suddenly two policemen appeared, and announced that the meeting could not be held. After a short delay it transpired that the Secretary to the Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York was present in the hall and had requested the police to stop the meeting. In order to test the legality of this extraordinary proceeding, Mrs. Margaret Sanger stepped to the front of the platform and commenced to address the audience so as to force the police to arrest her. She was formally arrested and a charge brought against her next morning. But the police failed to put in any evidence to justify the charge and the case was at once dismissed by the magistrate. . . . A few days later another meeting was held on the same issue, in a larger hall, and the police, instead of stopping it, guaranteed and gave protection against possible disturbance."

Many of the New York papers commenting with indignation on the incident which occurred at the first meeting, quoted the constitution of the New York State which guarantees the right of free speech to every citizen.

Mr. Cox points out that had Mrs. Sanger not insisted on challenging in the court the right of the police to stop the above meeting no other meeting could have been held on any similar subject, and reminds us that "the price of liberty is eternal vigilance."

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