

The general attractiveness of the place where the Clinics are to be held—not *paraphernalia* but *light*. *Absolute cleanliness*, simple lines of beauty which will at a glance satisfy the eye and create a nucleus of cheerfulness, at the same time forming a model of what the home standard should be. No Health Visitor should rest contented until she has helped with all the means in her power to establish in her district an attractive type of Welfare—or *Welcome* (as the Mothers named a place and which they grew to love) for her District. The absence of that element of attractiveness has seemed to me one of the reasons for many disappointments and it might account for the, sometimes, ultimate failure of many of such well-meaning Social Movements in England. *Light*, *Cleanliness*, and simple beauty have so often been neglected in the selection of the building chosen for the work of propaganda, when perhaps a £5 or £10 note wisely expended on whitewash and distemper would have been, as it were, conducive to the acceptance of the teaching and right understanding of that particular Social Movement.

Lastly, and most important, are the personalities to whom the carrying out of our work will be entrusted through the somewhat clouded days ahead, if by any cruel misfortune the recommendations in relation to Health and Education of the Geddes Report are adopted.

We who know the work intimately, from the inside as it were, must be seriously aware of the necessity to guard the mothers of the nation from the tender mercies of those not competent by training, experience or personality to do this kind of work. The minimum we must demand from future candidates for the work of Health Visitors is the Certificate of the General Nursing Council and of the Central Midwives Board, and for those who have not had any experience as Health Visitors, a practical course of training of not less than six months at a recognised Infant Welfare Centre, combined with a theoretical course on Social Economics. Now, we know these Certificates take time to gain—a minimum of four years and probably after-courses of training which can only be launched upon when a woman has put her school days well behind her. It is vitally important for us to combine and to demand a rate of salary compatible with the mature age and high qualifications which the work demands, together with rates of increase according to years of service or as promotion permits. Health Visitors should combine to demand a forewoman from their own ranks, not have another branch of the Medical Profession placed over them.

In case I have failed to carry conviction on the point of the high standard I consider should be demanded in the work of a Health Visitor, I will try to illustrate what I mean. I chanced upon a copy of Bernard Shaw's play, "The Doctor's Dilemma." You will remember when the artist Dubedat is dying he declares his faith in three great Masters—Michael Angelo, Velasquez, and Rembrandt. It set me thinking. In what three things in life do I place absolute blinding faith?

It dawned on me in all seriousness, they are the Sermon on the Mount, Beethoven, and Maternity and Child Welfare Work. I leave you to find the link.

Blake's words are true and have been a source of inspiration to me for many years. "Labour well the minute particulars. Attend to the Little Ones, and those who are in Misery cannot remain long so."

At the close of the Conference there was an interesting discussion on various opinions expressed by the speakers.

Miss Wise, in a few graceful remarks, thanked the speakers. With reference to the points raised by them she stated that it had been said that the ideal Health Visitor should possess the large heart of a mother, the sharp wit of a business man, the intellect of a scientist, the skill of a statesman, the patience of a saint, and to these she would add, the unruffled calm of a philosopher and the long vision of an idealist.

#### DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT.

##### "NO SERVANTS."

We had quite a novel entertainment at the Club on the 4th inst., when the members of the London Temperance Hospital Nurses' League gave a dramatic and musical entertainment. It was one of the best amateur performances we have ever seen, and the members who were able to be present enjoyed it exceedingly. "We could have done with another three acts," said someone, and the outbursts of laughter must have convinced the players that their audience entered fully into the spirit of their comedy.

The musical programme after the play was equally good, and we offer to the League members our very grateful thanks for their kindness to the Association—no small kindness either, considering that it came at the end of a long hospital day and must have involved many rehearsals when the actors had not much energy left.

#### CLUB FIXTURES.

On Saturday, March 11th, at 3 p.m., at 194, Queen's Gate, Miss A. E. Macdonald will lecture on "Mental Nursing Along the Lines of Suggestion and Constructive Thought." Miss Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., Matron of the Kent County Mental Hospital, will take the chair. Miss Macdonald is a very able writer on subjects connected with psychology, and even those who are not interested in mental nursing will find much to inspire and help them in what she has to say.

On Saturday, March 18th, at 3 p.m., Professor MacGregor-Morris will lecture on "Thunder and Lightning." The Lecture Room will be darkened to enable him to perform many experiments in connection with his subject and his lecture will also be illustrated by lantern slides. We look forward to a most interesting and wonderful lecture and we hope members will attend in large numbers and bring their friends.

ISABEL MACDONALD,  
Secretary to the Corporation.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)