

and scientific men—and this is the will of her women, whom Florence Nightingale declared endowed with the highest qualities that go to form good nurses.

Florence Nightingale was born in Italy, and her great spirit will surely inspire the women she thought well of, and help the land she loved—and this National Association of ours, formed to spread a better knowledge of her great art in the land of her birth, has come to join the great National Association of all other civilised nations, and to add a drop of oil to her blessed lamp, that its everlasting light may burn ever brighter to give relief to all sufferers and new hope of greater health and happiness to all mankind.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE WORK.

By AN INTERESTED VISITOR.

We hear much of a "Brighter London," and it conjures up in the minds of most people the circumference of theatre-land; but it is far removed from the already brightened corner in London, E. 2 (as it would be described in the postal directory), which we visited a short time ago. Thanks to the forethought and long-sighted policy of the late Labour Council of Bethnal Green, a fine old building has been adapted as the headquarters of the Maternity and Child Welfare work of that Borough.

One enters a courtyard, partially covered to serve as a "pram-shed," and thence through a Central Hall to a spacious Waiting Room. The first thing to strike one is the happy note of colour on the walls, the two shades of blue, which are inevitably associated in one's mind with the Madonna as the old masters loved to paint her—the rich blue of the deep dado being in washable paint, so that children need no chiding when they touch it.

The Waiting Room was well filled with contented looking Mothers, either talking over their cups of tea, or gathered round the sewing stall where the staff were ready to offer advice, answer questions, or discuss the untiring subject of the last baby's progress with a study of the weight card.

A wide staircase leads to the Weighing and Doctors' rooms. Everywhere the same note of cheerfulness and plenty of light and air, also evidence of a system of organisation which, while being barely perceptible, leaves nothing unthought of, and permits a hundred or more children to be weighed, or seen by a Doctor or Health Visitor (who note the baby's progress on the case sheet, &c.), all in one short afternoon of 1.30 to 4 p.m.

We next followed the group making its way to the Dispensary, which is on the ground floor, from whence various dried milk foods and simple medicines can be obtained, but only by Doctor's

orders. Purchases are made through a hatchway, and a few words of explanation given when necessary.

Next came the room set apart for the Mothers' Clinics, with its efficient equipment giving the impression of a minimum of expenditure and a maximum of advantage, and still the same note of colour kept in one's mind the thought of Motherhood rather than any suggestion of curative treatment. These Clinics are held on two mornings in the week, and are presided over by a Lady Doctor, who apparently spares herself no trouble in helping the Mother by advice as well as treatment, and to whom the midwives can go when requiring further advice as to special cases. Two other mornings of the week are given up to interviewing cases needing assistance, milk for children under five years, nursing and expectant mothers, &c. Sometimes a father makes the application, and I gathered is shown the advantages to be derived from the Clinic, as far as time and opportunity allow. Home Visiting, and a Branch Clinic held at the opposite end of a long, narrow district, fill to overflowing the duty hours of a staff of eight very competent looking Health Visitors.

We were shown several smaller rooms in the main building, used for clerical and record purposes, including the Superintendent's Office. These rooms on very busy days can be adapted as an extra Infants' Clinic.

In this spacious building it was very pleasant to find such an atmosphere of homeliness; all the Mothers seeming so completely at ease, though a dozen at least, I was told, were new to the Centre that afternoon.

The person, however, who still continues to strain after greater perfection is the Superintendent—Miss Le Geyt—who never ceases to dream and scheme for more and still more clinics, more co-operation with other educative and helpful agencies, until every child in that Borough under five years of age, not to mention its mother, shall be able to benefit by the adaptation of the fundamental truth that "prevention is better than cure."

THE IRISH MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Irish Matrons' Association was held on Saturday, January 6th, 1923. Miss Thornton, R.R.C., Matron of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital was elected President; Miss Power, Matron Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, was elected Hon. Treasurer; and Miss Reeves, R.R.C., Matron Dr. Steevens' Hospital, was elected Hon. Secretary.

Eleven new members were elected. An "At home" was given at 34, Stephen's Green early in December to make the acquaintance of the recently appointed Matron. The "At home" brought a great many of the old members together, and was greatly enjoyed by old and new Matrons.

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