

and the Convalescent Home of the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond Street, W.C. In July last it was opened as the Home of the Mothercraft Training Society, when Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York, President of the Society, honoured the occasion with her presence. The purchase price and cost of the alterations amounted to over £14,000, towards which between £8,000 and £9,000 has been contributed; to meet the balance a mortgage of £6,000 has been raised. A yearly grant of £537 for twenty years has been promised by the Ministry of Health on this capital expenditure. The Society is most anxious as soon as the outlay is justified to build a Hostel for its students in its own grounds, and also accommodation for mothers who are admitted with their babies.

Is the work worth while?

Look at our pictures of an infant (which we are able to publish by the courtesy of the Secretary, Miss Agatha Havard), which illustrate what the Centre can do for the babies which come under its care, and you can be in no doubt as to the answer. The birth weight of the child was 10½ lbs. At 5½ months 8 lbs. 9 oz. When the first photograph was taken it weighed 9 lbs. 5 ozs., and when the second photograph was taken at 15 months of age, 25 lbs. To have restored to a "waster" the right to a happy childhood, and to the community a healthy and later we may hope a self-supporting member of society, is surely cause for satisfaction. Multiply this by hundreds, and we must agree that the work of the Mothercraft Training Society is worthy of all support from the point of view of the children.

But that is only one side. The training given in Mothercraft greatly extends its influence for good. There are courses of varying length: (1) Three months for fully qualified nurses; (2) four to six months for certified midwives; (3) twelve months for previously untrained women and girls. The cost of the last-mentioned is about £120 a year, and it is interesting to know that there is no dearth of applicants; indeed, there are no vacancies before 1928.

There are also special Mothercraft Courses for (1) Expectant mothers, (2) young and inexperienced mothers, (3) girls about to be married.

Lectures and Demonstrations are given on Monday and Thursday afternoons at 3 p.m. An opportunity is given for Students to do practical work in the Nurseries if they wish.

The Fee for the Course is Three Guineas, or according to the student's means.

Much experience can be gained in the Out-patient Department where there are three clinics weekly.

The Queen recently paid an informal visit to the Centre, where she was received by the Chairman, Lady Galway, the Hon. Consulting Physician, Dr. J. S. Fairbairn, and the Hon. Medical Director, Dr. R. C. Jewesbury.

Her Majesty took a keen interest in the wards, and saw each one of the babies, and also talked with the resident mothers.

The prospectus of the Society describes the purpose of the training as follows:—

"Besides setting on the right track as many mothers and babies as possible, the Institution is a teaching centre for giving courses of systematic instruction and practical training in the essentials for the well-being of mother and child under normal conditions and for restoring them to health.

"The main idea is to give a sound, simple and thorough grounding in the every-day needs of the home and nursery, and to effect this without over-pressure in regard to study or mere memorising. The desire is to make the course practical, helpful and domestic, to encourage and stimulate commonsense and resourcefulness, and to render the knowledge conveyed as interesting and as widely applicable and adaptable as possible.

"Everyone who comes to the Training Centre should clearly understand that the only genuine way to learn any kind of nursing or infant welfare work is to take part in it and serve under competent guidance among the mothers and babies who have to be helped."

Needless to say the tenets of the founder of the Society, Sir Frederick Truby King, C.M.G., are carefully inculcated and followed, for on these the success of the work depends. In Miss Liddiard, the Matron he has an enthusiastic disciple, and she has incorporated in various books obtainable at Cromwell House the principles

and practice which she has found of value.

NURSING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NURSING HOMES (REGISTRATION)

The Bill to provide for the registration and inspection of Nurses' Homes, and for purposes connected therewith presented by Mrs. Philipson, passed its second reading in the House of Commons on April 1st without a division. The contentious Clause, round which discussion centred was Clause 8 (1) "For the purposes of this Act the council of every county as respects that county, and the council of every county borough, as respects that borough, shall be the local supervising authority," and more is likely to be heard of this in the Committee stage.



THE OAK STAIRCASE AT CROMWELL HOUSE.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)