

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF DAY NURSERIES' HOLIDAY HOME AND TRAINING SCHOOL, HURSTLEIGH, HURSTWOOD LANE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

The National Society of Day Nurseries realising the need of a Holiday Home for children below school age attending the Day Nurseries in the poorest districts of London who require change and country air started one in 1916.

Every year a house was taken for the summer months, but after doing this for five years, the Committee realised the urgency for further extending their work, and bought a beautiful house with a spacious garden at Tunbridge Wells, situated on one of the highest and healthiest positions in the town, on Mount Ephraim.

Children are sent down from London by various Day Nurseries during the summer months for holidays, and from the Invalid Children's Aid Association, Welfare Centres and the Almoners of Hospitals in the winter months for Convalescent treatment. There are few Residential Homes where babes from one month to four years are admitted, so that the N.S.D. Nurseries have supplied a very real need, and it is a delight to those interested to watch the rapid improvement in the 28 to 30 pale-faced little visitors after a few days' good feeding in healthy surroundings. The children stay from three weeks to six months (sometimes longer in the case of a little unwanted babe) according to their needs, and home conditions.

As a further extension of the usefulness of the Home a number of students are trained as Nursery Nurses.

The course takes one year. Students are received at 17 years or older. Sometimes in exceptional cases they are accepted at 16 years, then they must stay two. Certificates are never granted until the student is 18 years.

The Practical work consists of:—

- (1) The preparation of Infant Feeds—and simple meals for Toddlers.
- (2) Treatment of slight ailments—and First-aid treatment.
- (3) Care of Healthy and Convalescent Children.
- (4) Washing and Ironing Children's Clothes.
- (5) Making and Mending—Needlework and knitted garments.
- (6) Kindergarten, Organised Play and Handwork.

The Theoretical work includes lectures on:—

- (1) Dietetics.
- (2) Hygiene.
- (3) Signs of Health and Disease.
- (4) Psychology.

The object in view is to train students in the care of

Healthy Children, and to be able to perform all light domestic duties; to teach method, discipline and self-sacrifice, in fact to try and make them real mothers to their charges, as well as intelligent nurses in case of slight ailments. Care is taken to instil into students that they are expected to be good Nursery Nurses, not indifferent Sick Nurses.

The training would be very useful to girls, who think of taking General Training later on, to fill in time until they are old enough to enter Hospital. There is a large room arranged as a Model Nursery where each student in turn has charge of a Bottle-fed babe and a Toddler. They follow out a daily programme exactly as it would be in a home, cleaning the nursery and waiting on themselves, having meals with the children, only mixing with the other students in the evening when their charges are asleep.

A small Nursery class is also arranged. It is most interesting to watch busy little fingers at work, some only two years old.

Children are encouraged to wait on themselves, fetching their own second helping at dinner, staggering along so important, with nurse hovering behind, to pick up the pieces in case of accident. Then the babes think it fine fun to wash their own hands afterwards. It is more tedious for Nurse but good training for the Child.

Singing is also a great source of enjoyment, it is surprising the number of popular songs these mites of three and four years know, and how they love to show off. They are a happy little band; it is extraordinary how quickly they settle down and

forget in a few days (mercifully for them and all concerned) to cry for Mummie.

The system in this School stimulates the maternal instinct, and thus develops womanly character.

NATIONAL BIRTHDAY TRUST FUND.

The Queen has sent her birthday donation to the National Birthday Trust Fund, and has promised a similar subscription each year until the object of the fund—the collection of 44,000,000 shillings (1s. a head of the population) for the extension of maternity services—has been achieved.

A fair will be held in the garden at No. 11, Downing Street on Wednesday, July 19. A committee, of which Mrs. Stanley Baldwin is chairman and Lady Maureen Stanley vice-chairman, is arranging the attractions, which will include merry-go-rounds, houp-la, fish-ponds, skittles, and a treasure hunt. The proceeds of the fair, which is being held in connection with the National Birthday Trust Fund, will be in aid of the new headquarters of the Midwives' Institute and the Queen's Institute of District Nursing.



NURSE WITH THREE LITTLE CHILDREN ENJOYING LIFE AT THE HOLIDAY HOME.

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