

THE MOTHERS' HOSPITAL OF THE SALVATION ARMY.

The Report for the year ending December, 1937, of the Mothers' Hospital in Lower Clapton Road, organised by the Salvation Army, describes a fine bit of its Women's Social Work, which deserves to be more generously supported.

Commissioner Catherine Bramwell-Booth is the Chairman of the Board of Management, and she has the help of a large staff of medical women in charge of the patients, and all these skilled obstetricians need is more money to support this indispensable institution and keep pace with the rapid progress of medicine in the treatment of patients who crowd its precincts for relief. What is now proclaimed as of paramount benefit to the nation—safe motherhood, a safe start in life for every infant, facilities for pre-natal and post-natal care, the efficient training of midwives is what the Salvation Army has for the past 50 years been unobtrusively working to secure. Now that in every Christian land so much interest in mother and child is evidenced, it may be difficult to realise how much of an innovation it was to establish a large, modernly equipped bungalow hospital, where, in addition to the free care of unmarried mothers, poor married women might receive all the help that science and

sympathetic nursing could give, in return for whatever small payment they could make.

The Commissioner points out that, from the beginning, the Army's maternity service has been carried on in accordance with that high conception of its demands once expressed by General Bramwell-Booth in the words: "Only the best is good enough."

The Hospital's latest extension, the new Isolation Block, was opened last June when doctors, civic officials, welfare workers, hospital matrons noted the latest versions of Lister's and Pasteur's great healing principles in wood, stone, rubber, metal and electric fixtures.

For the 12 balconied single rooms, the two nurseries, the kitchens and bathrooms, every device of up-to-date medical science for disarming the tiny unseen enemies of health had apparently been employed.

The Block is one more step toward the beautiful entire ideal of London's second largest Maternity Hospital! Operating theatre, additional blocks, nurses' quarters, out-patients' department, isolation block, gradually all have been added through the years, generous friends, seeing the mothers needs outstripping the accommodation, have made each new provision possible. Specially valuable are the

open colonnades, flanked by green lanes and shrubs, where happy mothers can sit in the sunshine nursing her new treasure.

In July last, the International Congress of Nurses which was attended by Major Christiana Knott, the matron and three of the sisters, brought a number of overseas visitors, Presidents of National Associations and others to inspect the Hospital, admiring the while they were deeply interested in the humanitarian spirit which inspires the whole scope of the Hospital's work.

The following gratifying tribute has been paid to the pupil midwives:—

"The Training School for Pupil Midwives has had a very encouraging and successful year. Fifty-four pupils entered the Training School, and of these forty-nine were successful in obtaining the C.M.B. certificate. This excellent result is due in great measure to the unremitting skill and care of

the Sister-Tutor—Sister (Major) Foxton—and to the whole-hearted interest and co-operation of the ward-sisters, in teaching the practical nursing care of mother and baby. The pupils bring to their work great enthusiasm and unflagging zeal, and they have richly deserved the success which has been theirs."

Perhaps the fact that a large proportion of the pupil-midwives are missionary workers explains something of their

enthusiasm and zeal—the picture of the "Officer-Nurse in the Congo" has been kindly lent by the Salvation Army.

A visit paid to "The Mothers' Hospital" of the Salvation Army cannot fail to arouse good will—and, let us hope, financial support.

"A woman who does a woman's work needs many-sided, multiform culture; the heights and depths of human life must not be beyond her vision; she must have knowledge of men and things in many states, a wide catholicity of sympathy, the strength that springs from knowledge and the magnanimity that springs from strength."

Olive Schreiner.

If I can stop one heart from breaking,
I shall not live in vain;
If I can ease one life the aching
Or cool one pain,
Or help one fainting robin
Into his nest again,
I shall not live in vain.

—Emily Dickenson.



OFFICER-NURSE IN THE CONGO SHOWS THE "ORDER OF THE BATH"!

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