

NOTICE.

Will members please note that applications for Railway concessions should be made to Miss Slater, Convent of S. Mary, Panch Howds, Poona City. Application to other officers of the Association only causes delay and an extra postage stamp, as they have to be forwarded to Miss Slater.

Members must also apply early in future for concessions, as the B. B. & C. I. Ry. the G. I. P. Ry., and the S. M. Ry. are all now requiring the signature of the District Traffic Superintendent on concession forms.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES.

SALOMONS INFANT WELFARE CENTRE, GUY'S HOSPITAL, LONDON.

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(From *The Bulletin of the International Council of Nurses.*)

IN February, 1918, the House Committee of the Hospital received a letter from the Public Trustee stating that he was desirous of devoting a portion of the Residuary Estate of the late Mr. Leopold Salomons for the maintenance of an Infant Welfare Centre at Guy's Hospital, to be known as the Salomons Infant Welfare Centre.

Should suitable conditions be agreed upon as between the Hospital and the Executors of the late Mr. Leopold Salomons, the Executors were prepared to give the sum of £10,000 to endow such an Infant Welfare Centre.

Terms were agreed upon as between the Salomons Trustees and the Hospital, and in May, 1918, the House Committee received £10,000 from the Public Trustee for the Salomons Welfare Centre.

As this Welfare Centre is intimately connected with the work of the Hospital both in the Maternity Department and in the Department for Diseases of children, it may be of some interest to describe the organization and work of this Centre.

For many years past all women resident in the District extending for about a mile round Guy's Hospital have been eligible to be treated during their confinement by the Obstetric Department of the Hospital. In 1923, over 2,000 women were so attended.

The Institution of an Infant Welfare Centre made it possible to organize arrangements for the ante-natal and post-natal care of these women on a much more thorough basis.

The Salomons Welfare Centre is managed by a Committee which includes representatives of the Governors of the Hospital, representatives of the Medical and Surgical Staff of the Hospital, and representatives of outside persons interested in children's welfare.

Immediately upon receipt of the money from the Salomons Trustees, the Committee took over three houses in a street adjoining the Hospital, and

converted them for the purposes of the Infant Welfare Centre. These houses provide accommodation for Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics, and for the residence of a Sister Superintendent, six Health Visitors, and a domestic staff.

The Medical Staff of the Welfare Centre consists of the two Obstetric Registrars of the Hospital, who are responsible for the Ante-natal Clinics, and of two medical officers who are responsible for the post-natal treatment of mothers and for the welfare of children up to the age of five years.

The area of the Ante-natal Clinic is the same as that of the old Maternity District, *viz.*, the neighbourhood for about a mile around the Hospital. The Post-natal Clinic covers a much smaller area, as there are already several other Infant Welfare Centres managed and supported by the local Borough Councils.

In describing the work of the Department it is probably best to begin with the expectant mother.

All pregnant women living in the Maternity District apply in the first instance to the Almoner of the Hospital for a card entitling them to be attended by the Hospital during their confinement. The Almoner of the Hospital investigates their financial and home circumstances, and decides whether they are eligible to receive treatment at the hands of the Hospital. The mothers are then referred to the Ante-natal Clinic, where they attend and are examined by the Medical Officers in charge of the Ante-natal Clinic. They are carefully examined as to previous pregnancies, if any, and a thorough medical examination of them is undertaken in order to ascertain whether there are any unusual or abnormal conditions in existence which may make labour difficult.

A special Dental Clinic has also been arranged for under the charge of a special Dental Officer, to which the expectant mothers may be sent in order to have their teeth put in order, as the state of their teeth has very often a great bearing on their health, and on the good progress of their pregnancy and confinement. The whole ante-natal history of the mother and the result of the medical examination is written down on a card or record.

The mothers attend, according to instructions, at regular intervals up to the date of their confinement. When labour commences, the mother sends up her card to the Hospital, and the Hospital despatches to her house either a male Extern Obstetric Attendant, or one of the Pupil Midwives in training at the Hospital, in charge of a trained Midwife, who is their tutor and instructress. The record as to the Patient's physical condition is available for the Extern Obstetric Attendant or Nurse when they go to see the Patient, so that they are fully aware of any difficulties which may arise or abnormalities for which special arrangements must be made.

In certain cases, where the Medical Officers consider that it is undesirable that the Patients should be confined in their own homes, arrangements are made for them to be admitted into the Obstetric Ward of the Hospital, where a limited number of beds are reserved for them.

During the puerperal period the mother is attended by the Extern Obstetric Assistant or the Midwife, and when she is able to get up, if she lives in the area attached to the Infant Welfare Centre, she is told to attend there,

in order that she may receive regular advice as to her own health and as to the best way to feed and bring up her infant.

Not only are the mothers and children seen at the Infant Welfare Centre, but the six Health Visitors also visit the mothers in their homes and give them advice and assistance as to domestic hygiene and the feeding of the mother and the infant. The mother and the infant continue to attend at intervals prescribed by the Medical Officers until the child is five years old.

At the Infant Welfare Centre the healthy child only is attended to. Should the child or the mother become ill, it is referred to the appropriate departments of the Hospital, where the mother or the child can be seen by the Medical Staff of the Hospital.

In 1923, 2,210 mothers attended during the year, and the total attendances of expectant mothers were 6,773.

The total number of individual children attending the Infant Welfare Centre during the year was 220, and the total number of children's attendances was 3,316.

The total number of home visits paid by the Health Visitors to expectant mothers was 3,291 and to children 8,782.

The cost of the Infant Welfare Centre in 1923 was £1,463, towards which the Ministry of Health contributed nearly £800, the balance being defrayed out of endowments arising from the Salomons Infant Welfare Trust Fund.

The close association of this Infant Welfare Centre with the Hospital has been of the greatest advantage to the Staff of the Infant Welfare Centre, as the mother and the child are continuously cared for both in sickness and in health, until the child is five years old.

The establishment of the Ante-natal Clinics has resulted in a great improvement in the treatment of mothers during their confinement and in the avoidance of the complications which may arise during labour. The serious operations during the course of labour, which formerly were comparatively frequent and had to be dealt with as matters of urgency, are now anticipated before they arise, and cases which are thought may present some difficulty during labour are now admitted to the Hospital immediately labour commences, and the Obstetric Staff of the Hospital are enabled not only to save much suffering and delay, but very materially to reduce maternal sickness and infant mortality. The establishment of Infant Welfare Centres generally in London has been associated with a very considerable diminution of the infantile death rate.

The experience which the Hospital Authorities have derived from the establishment of the Infant Welfare Centre makes it quite clear that Infant Welfare Clinics should, if possible, be closely associated with, or actually established in, Hospitals, and that Infant Welfare Clinics should in all cases, if possible, include Ante-natal Clinics, so that the mother and the child can be kept under continuous observation by the same set of Medical Officers.

Such an organization is of the greatest value for the mother and the child, and has been responsible at Guy's Hospital for a great improvement in the teaching and practice both of Maternity work and of Infant Treatment.