

earliest days of life; it should be at hand whenever required—this the constant and regular and repeated visits of the Helpers make it easy to secure.

COST OF WORK.

The Voluntary Public Health Union is worked without subscriptions, the expenses being merely for stamps and circulars. A demand will be made for subscriptions when required, but the time and energy of the ladies engaged in visiting is a sufficient tax without putting on them the work of collecting subscriptions or giving money themselves. As to the cost to the Corporation, the only expenditure has been the salaries of the Lady Assistant Medical Officers of Health, and a rather heavy amount of printing charges. The whole has not been equal to £400 a year.

October, 1907.

BENJAMIN BROADBENT, M.A., J.P.,
Chairman.

S. G. MOORE, M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

THE MOTHER.

The welfare of the Community is bound up in the bundle of life with the mother. A community is, in the eloquent words of Burke, "a partnership not only between those who are living, but between those who are living and those who are dead, and those who are to be born." So the Community would need to "Concentrate on the Mother," to use the famous phrase of the Right Hon. John Burns.

Dr. Sidney Barwise, County Medical Officer of Derbyshire, thinks that money spent on the education and rearing of children should be deducted from income tax, and hopes that we shall see pious founders of endowments for mothers of healthy stock and good family. That is, families healthy on both sides who have been members of friendly societies or similar organizations for, say, at least two generations, and have not been "in trouble with the police," nor in receipt of Poor Law relief."

WHEN THE MOTHER WORKS.

An outstanding event of 1910 in the Infant Mortality field has been the stated enquiry into whether or not the mother going out to work affected prejudicially the health and life of the infant.

Common sense tells us at once that it does, if only because it is sure to interfere with the mother's nursing her infant at all, or at proper intervals, or if there is a cradle room to meet cases of exceptional hardship and necessity in a factory, at least factory work prevents the mother's giving that care and quiet nurture to the infant that can be got in a home, and only there. So strongly was this felt by the Conference on Infant Mortality of 1906 that a resolution was passed by them asking legislation to increase the time of the mother's absence from work after childbirth required by Section 61 of the Factory and Workshop Act from one month to three months. There is considerable difference of opinion as to whether the change would be a help, and the Home Office has set on foot an investigation by requesting the Medical Health Officers in industrial centres to make enquiries as to the physical, social, and economic effects of the employment of women before and after childbirth, and in the following November a conference of these Medical Officers of Health was held at the Home Office. The result of the conference was that