

of advice on the care of infants, very carefully thought out, are generally left. Wherever practicable breast-feeding is urged, and if there is any difficulty in this respect help and advice are proffered. It is at the very earliest stage of her motherhood that the mother requires the best available advice, and it is just then that she most readily welcomes and assimilates teaching as to the best methods for her child's welfare.

This first visit by the Lady Doctors is followed by repeated visits in all cases where the circumstances call for them. It is at this point that the utility of the Voluntary Association comes into play. For the purpose of this Voluntary Association the Borough is divided up into separate districts, corresponding as far as possible with the Wards, but taking as a basis for a separate district the number of births; about 150 births per annum is the approximate number for one district. Over each of these districts is appointed a Lady Superintendent, and with her are associated a group of Lady Helpers, varying in number in proportion to the number of babies likely to be born; it is not reckoned that any one Lady Helper should have more than 15 to 20 babies on her list.

After the first visit of the Assistant Medical Officer of Health, the lists of babies are divided up into the districts of the Public Health Union, and each week the list of babies is sent to the Lady Superintendent of the district. She, in her turn, divides up the list week by week amongst her helpers. Each baby is thus placed under the supervision of some one or other Lady Helper, and she is expected to keep each under observation, and do what she can for its welfare. In all cases where the child is not thriving and where no medical practitioner is in attendance, she is expected to send to the Public Health Department for aid. This does not involve any gift or charity. The visit is a visit to the baby, and for its health, and it is a rule that no dole shall be given in any shape. In cases of need the various official, religious, and philanthropic agencies of the town are communicated with, such as the Charity Organization Society and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and the Invalids' Kitchen. In cases of sanitary defects information is given to the proper health authorities. The visits of the Lady Helpers, like those of the Assistant Medical Officers of Health, are entirely optional on the part of the visited. A very simple formula defines the position—not to cross the threshold unless an invitation is given to enter, not to sit down unless a seat is offered, to remember that every "room" of a cottage has as much right to privacy as any lady's drawing-room. There is thus no danger of intrusion or of unwelcome interference. In some cases only a very occasional visit is required, but in others more frequent visits are necessary. Where a case seems to require help, and no doctor is in attendance, the Lady Helper asks the Assistant Medical Officer of Health to pay a visit. A free use is made of printed matter, and in every available way general interest is aroused in the welfare of the babies, as well as individual attention being given to each one.

The value of the interworking of the municipal and official with the voluntary is expressed in apt but perhaps too flattering terms by Mrs. Sidney Webb, who says, after a personal investigation of the whole scheme, "I am convinced that you have discovered the key to raising the condition of the poorer classes in this systematic and sympathetic health visiting—voluntary effort in a setting of municipal activity."

*The whole aim and object of the Huddersfield work against Infantile Mortality is to keep mother and child together in the home, and to give help to mother and child alike. That help should be of the very best—hence the employment of medical women—it should be given at the time most needed—that is, in the*