

REPORT OF THE MILK STATION COMMITTEE.

19th May, 1915.

Madam President, Members of the Council,—

Since May last 289 new babies have been received at the Milk Station, and 161 have been dismissed. All these babies were under two years of age, the age limit, except in special cases, being a year and a half. Eight deaths have had to be recorded. Private physicians sent us 42 cases, and 12 were sent from hospitals. Twenty babies whose fathers are fighting for our country have come from the Patriotic Relief Committee. The amount of milk used is from 600 to 700 gallons a month. Pure milk given out daily in quart bottles averages, for the year, from 32 to 48 quarts; about 7 quarts daily is given free. From 50 to 69 prescriptions for modified milk have been dispensed daily, about 8 prescriptions daily being given free. This milk is most carefully prepared by a nurse thoroughly trained at the Montreal Foundling and Baby Hospital.

The work of the Milk Station is in charge of a trained nurse, Miss Slack, who is on full day duty, the employment of a visiting nurse for the afternoons only not having proved satisfactory. During the winter months the number of sick babies is not as great as in the summer, so four clinics a week have been found sufficient. On one of the free days each week the nurse has been enabled to go off duty, and her place has been taken by the assistant in the milk room, which has proved an economical and satisfactory arrangement. As an outcome of the Kermesse, held the end of last May, our Milk Station benefitted very materially; nevertheless, we were exceedingly pleased to receive an additional grant of \$100.00 in December, when Miss Bender, the Treasurer of the Station and your Convener, paid a visit to Dr. Boucher, the City Medical Health Officer. This was given just as a Christmas present, our good friend assured us. Added to the civic grant of \$1,000.00 for the year, this is the highest grant we have ever received. Notwithstanding this assistance, in the New Year the scarcity of money began to be felt, and soon necessitated limiting the number receiving free milk to babies who were very ill and whose parents were so poor they were unable to pay even a small sum. A letter was written to the Relief Committee of the Baron de Hirsch Institute, explaining the situation, and asking if they would be willing to pay 35 cents a week for persons they commended to the Station. A reply from the Secretary expressed willingness to accede to our request, and added: "I have been requested to convey to you our appreciation of the