

THE CHILD WELFARE MOVEMENT

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P R E F A C E

THIS work is intended to be a handbook for those who wish to understand something of the machinery for the conduct of work for Maternity and Child Welfare.

It makes no effort to be a comprehensive text-book on either Local Government or Child Hygiene in any of its branches. These matters form part of the framework of the book, but the aim has been to give only such aspects of both these subjects as appeared necessary for an intelligent understanding of the work under consideration.

The book has been written under pressure of other work, which has rendered much revision of the original manuscript impossible for lack of time. The subject-matter of the book has been dealt with for some time past in lectures to students of the Household and Social Science Department of King's College for Women. Now that the College is undertaking the training of health visitors under the recent Board of Education Regulations, a short text-book on matters with which all health visitors should be familiar seemed opportune, and the request to write a handbook served to supply the necessary stimulus. The opinions expressed have been formed primarily as a result of four years' work practically all over the country, when serving as Medical Inspector for Child Welfare under the Local Government Board.

It is believed that record has been made of opposing

views whenever there is known to be a definite school of thought of opposite tendencies.

It is usual, however, in life to find that the cause of divergence of views is due primarily to inadequacy of explanation. This arises especially in connection with Child Welfare work, when, for example, those with urban experience only, discuss matters with those working in rural districts. The conditions are so different in these areas as to justify apparently opposite views. When the district under discussion is specified, it will usually be found that any remaining difference of opinion is on unimportant matters only, or due to the fact that one side contemplates an ideal regardless of cost or feasibility, and the other envisages such development as may be capable of accomplishment under existing powers and conditions.

No attempt has been made throughout the book to deal with the work of the Poor Law Guardians, either under the Poor Law or under the Children Act of 1908. While theoretically, no doubt, many phases of their work fall under the general meaning of Child Welfare work, it is not included under what is ordinarily understood by this term.

Further, it is probable that the whole Poor Law system will now be short-lived, and as Public Health workers are not closely concerned with its working as at present carried out, it appeared unnecessary to deal with it.

The chapters on Local Government are inserted with the view of explaining certain points in the machinery, upon which information is not readily accessible.

They are not intended to form a treatise on Local Government as such.

I am indebted to St. Katharine's Royal College at Poplar, and to Dr. Harold Waller their Medical Officer, for permission to print samples of their record cards. To the Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office for

permission to reproduce the Act and Circulars which form the subject-matter of Appendices III., IV., V. (A) and (B), and VIII. The documents are not printed by Authority.

Further, I desire to acknowledge with many thanks the permission given by the Medical Officers of Durham County, Hertfordshire, and Birmingham to reprint the subject-matter of Appendices VI. and VII.

I am also greatly indebted to Mr. H. O. Stutchbury, of the Ministry of Health, for kindly reading many of the chapters, especially those on Local Government, and for numerous valuable suggestions; and to Dr. Major Greenwood, who was good enough to read over the chapter on Infant Mortality.

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