

country are not similarly urgent to those operating in France, yet humanitarian and social considerations call for attempts to reduce the death-rate among young children. To have to admit that in England three in every 20 children die before the first anniversary of birth is humiliating, and the confession brings into the light one department which our vaunted progress in medical and hygienic science seems to have influenced little. The congested quarters in our cities are the pest holes where the tribute of infant life is the highest. Poverty, ignorance, carelessness, and crime are the high priests that officiate before the sacrificial altars.

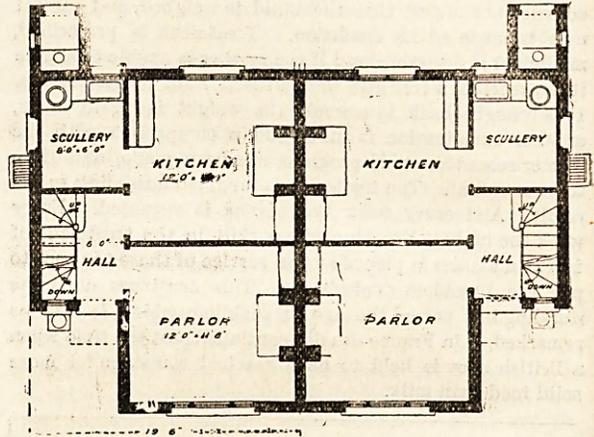
The "Goutte de Lait" movement of France has sent some seeds across the Channel, and there are in Great Britain six institutions—in Battersea, Liverpool, St. Helens, Bradford, York, and Leith—more or less resembling the French charities. But it will be so long before this little leaven can permeate the whole lump that one is constrained to lift a loud voice, and after proclaiming the urgency of the need, to try to show the particular manner in which the most desirable results may be won. In so many of the details—the cows, the milk, its preparation, its distribution, and its administration—is it possible to adopt methods which fall short of the highest. Healthy cows, properly fed and cleanly lodged, are the first essentials, and stringency in concern for these conditions can scarcely err on the side of too great severity. The method of milking—the new mechanical method by suction from an electrically-driven apparatus should be tested in all its aspects—and the storing of the milk follow. Contamination is so easy that every stage must be watched. Scrupulous care in one direction may easily be negated by laxity in another. Then the preparation: Sterilisation or Pasteurisation—popularly confounded, but greatly different—the advisability of pure milk, of diluted milk, or of modified milk are all questions that need the careful consideration of experienced medical men. It is in the distribution that the most stubborn difficulties have to be encountered. Municipal or State aid is absolutely necessary to the success of the schemes. Their prosecution cannot be wide enough otherwise.

In Liverpool and Battersea we have municipal milk distribution, but it is without that direct and skilled medical supervision which is essential to the highest good. It is better far than no scheme at all, but it may be raised to a higher plane by a slight rearrangement of the control. Several suggestions offer in this department. One is that any qualified doctor's order for municipal milk should be honoured at the distributing agency. This would enable every child to remain under the care of its own medical attendant, a most important consideration. The recognition of such orders, as a feature, would at once place the scheme upon a broad and solid foundation of usefulness. To what extent the law ought to be invoked to make periodical examination of the health of infants compulsory, and to insist upon the observance of the prescribed directions, is a proper matter for consideration. The suggestion may appear extreme, but is not the need sufficiently urgent? Regard the average infant mortality already noticed. Three in 20 children die before the age of 12 months. This is the average. Double it, make it 3 in 10, and you are still under the figure for the worst quarters in our cities. And this is without reckoning the deaths over one year old, for which neglect during the first year is directly responsible. Compulsion in the direction indicated would only be carrying the aims of the promoters of legislation against child labour higher and the purposes behind free education deeper. To preserve the infant life to fill its destiny in the State is a national duty, and as important a work as education, the burden of which the State shoulders. *Corpus sanum* essential and antecedent to *mens sana*.

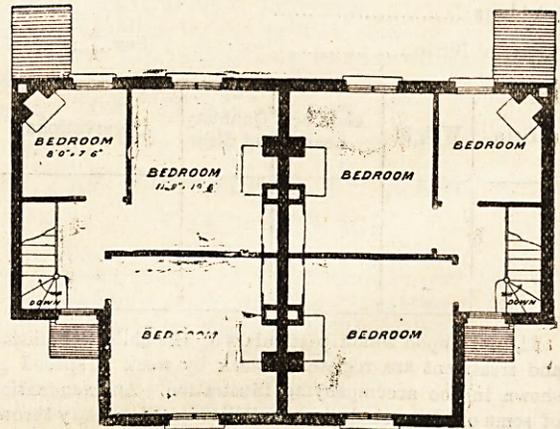
## REGIMENTAL HOMES.

ALTHOUGH these regimental homes are not in strict sense hospitals, we think a description of one of them, together with some general details, can hardly be out of place in our columns. The homes are intended for those soldiers who have been bodily disabled; and moreover the principle is an important one, and the work done by the homes is useful in the extreme.

It is pleasing to note that the movement has met with much help from those not directly connected with the Army.



SCALE OF FEET



We hear that medical and legal services have been given gratuitously, and that architects have wholly or partly remitted their fees. Lloyds Patriotic Fund have paid expenses incurred in the removal of disabled soldiers to their new homes; railway companies have conveyed families free of charge, and we may go lower down the social scale and state that a sweep who swept the chimneys declined to accept any payment.

In addition to 18 homes already completed, 25 others are either begun or about to be started, and several other regiments are raising funds for the purpose. It is to be hoped that this good work will go on until every regiment in the British Army has at least two or three pairs of these comfortable homes for its disabled men. It has always been with us a matter of much regret that any man who has fought for his country and been maimed in the fight should have to wander about in more or less aimless fashion, and have to pitch his tent wherever circumstances may

seem to throw him, instead of having his abode more or less in touch with his old comrades.

Of course the bulk of the money required to build any of these homes comes from the officers of the respective regiments and from those living near the regiment at its territorial habitation. The general committee is a very strong one, with Lord Roberts as president, Lord Brassey as treasurer, Mrs. Papillon as secretary; the bankers are Lloyds, of 16 St. James's Street; and the office is at 11 Tothill Street, Westminster. Any information concerning the movement can be obtained at the Westminster offices.

The plans we give in this issue are those of the home for the East Kent Regiment—the Buffs or the old 3rd Regiment. The site for one pair of these cottage homes was provided by Mr. J. F. Friend, and money for one cottage was collected by Mrs. Friend. Mr. Brooks, of the Convent, presented the funds for the other. The site is a very salubrious one, on the road from St. Peter's to Margate, and the plan is extremely compact and convenient. The entrance to each cottage is at the side, and it opens into a small lobby, where the staircase is placed. The ground-floor has sitting-room, kitchen and scullery, and the first-floor has three bedrooms. The cottages have a party wall, and are alike. The elevation is good, and the salient point is formed by the union of the two sitting-rooms. This part is gabled, and a stone shield, with the regimental badge engraved on it, has been placed between the two front bedroom windows.

## FORTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS IN LUNACY FOR SCOTLAND.

THIS report, with its appendices, runs to 180 pages and is presented to his Majesty's Secretary of State for Scotland. As usual with these Scottish Blue Books it is a very interesting, if somewhat saddening, document. It would seem that on January 1st, 1903, Scotland had 16,658 lunatics known as such to the authorities, and that by the corresponding date of 1904 the number had risen to 16,894, showing an increase of 236 during the year. It is remarkable that the increase is relatively much higher in the private patients than in the paupers; indeed, the latter show a lower rate of increase than usual.

Of the total number we find that 2,532 were maintained from private sources, 14,309 by parochial rates, and 53 at the expense of the State.

It is far from pleasing to be told every year and in every division of the United Kingdom that there is a steady rise in the number of the registered insane; and although Scotland only records an increase of 236, it is more significant when read with the knowledge that the total increase of the insane since 1858 has been 11,070, and that the number of lunatics has increased 190 per cent., while the increase of the population during the same period has only been 52 per cent. Further it is pointed out that the number of private patients has increased by 111, and that these cases have now reached the proportion of 49 to every 100,000 of the population. The Report states that a considerable number of these private patients are sent from the English side of the border; a fact which shows that great confidence exists in the Scottish lunacy system, a confidence which we ourselves share; but nevertheless we should like to know what steps are being taken to check this terrible influx of lunatics to our asylums, and to reduce the burden from the shoulders of the ratepayer ere such burden becomes intolerable.

The percentage of recoveries has a wide range. It is 6 per cent. in the lunatic wards of poorhouses and 50 per

cent. in parochial asylums, while royal and district asylums show 39 per cent. of cures, and private asylums 40 per cent. The Commissioners are careful to remark that very erroneous inferences might be drawn from these percentages unless the nature of the cases admitted to the various institutions be kept in view. The death-rate was 9.5 per cent. of the average number resident.

During the year 1903 there were 168 patients escaped from the asylums of Scotland. If captured within 28 days fresh certificates are not required for their confinement, but of the escapes in 1903 there were 20 who managed to make good their escape and were struck off the books. Five of these were said to have recovered, but we doubt whether a perfectly sane patient ever attempted to escape when awaiting his discharge. We are glad to see that the proportion of escapes is a diminishing one and that in ten years it has fallen from 18 per 1,000 to 12 per 1,000.

Regarding the condition of establishments for the insane in Scotland, it is evident that much good work has been done during the year 1903. Among others we notice that a new villa for male patients has been opened at the Banff Asylum; a sanatorium for consumption has been erected at Dumfries; the Glasgow Asylum is rendering a beneficial service by receiving patients in straitened circumstances at considerably reduced rates of board; a sanatorium for 60 patients has been opened at the Gartloch Asylum. At the Woodilee Asylum the proportion of day attendants to patients is 1 to 8, and of night attendants 1 to 32. The Commissioners say that this proportion is not exceeded by any institution in the country and we readily accept the statement; but we should like to ask the Commissioners whether they consider such a proportion necessary, and if not whether they think it justifiable in a rate-supported asylum. We learn that in the Murray Asylum at Perth there are 40 patients who pay an average of £45 a year for board, which is about half the ordinary minimum for private patients, and it stamps the institution as a veritable charity. Long may it continue so and shame those sister asylums which are far too much on the outlook for high paying cases.

Other information to be culled from this blue book is not always so satisfactory. For instance, the Roxburgh Asylum contains 44 patients in excess of its proper number, and the Haddington Asylum has 22 more than its space is intended for.

There were nine deaths from suicide during the year, being about 1 to 1,800. This proportion is more than twice as great as it was in English asylums during 1902.

The Commissioners are strongly of opinion that district lunacy boards should be allowed to provide accommodation for private patients of the poorer class; and it is difficult to understand how there could be any other opinion on the question, it being understood that the provision should be plain and the rates charged be just above the maintenance rate for paupers.

## GLANCES AT THE HOSPITALS.

### GLASGOW ROYAL INFIRMARY.

THE ordinary revenue was £29,063, and the ordinary expenditure was £37,093, and in addition £1,276 was handed over to the funds of the convalescent home. The extraordinary revenue was £22,436, and this was dealt with as follows:—To extraordinary expenditure £3,416, to the ordinary expenditure £9,306, and to stock account £9,713. The financial statement on page 13 shows that the annual subscriptions amounted to £10,016, employees in public works contributed £8,353, Hospital Sunday produced