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THE BELGIAN REFUGEES' HOME AT BURGESS HILL.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. O. S. Jaques) of the Local Committee who have been instrumental in providing a Home in Burgess Hill for Refugees from devastated Belgium, has kindly furnished us with a few particulars which will doubtless prove of interest to our readers. The commodious house in Birchwood Road, which has been so generously lent by Mrs. Carey, was handed over to the Committee on October 5th, and preparations were at once made for the reception of their guests. The first party to be received therein consisted of a peasant farmer, his wife, and two small children. These poor folks, who came from the district of Termonde, had not only witnessed the awful carnage which took place there, but had been themselves the victims of German cruelty, whilst their eldest lad, 16 years of age, was at that time either made prisoner or killed—they know not which. The next arrivals were a diamond cutter, who was the proprietor of a shop in Brussels which had been looted, and who had been forced to flee with his wife and child of nine absolutely penniless. They were soon followed by the caretaker of some bank premises in Malines, her child of eight years, and another little girl who had escaped from one of the numerous convents. The addition of two nuns complete the household at present, but as there is still accommodation for a further six persons it is hoped to obtain the permission of the Home Office (Burgess Hill being now a prohibited area) to take in up to that number should suitable cases present themselves. An excellent system for the daily routine of the home has been inaugurated. The nuns have entire charge of the household, under the supervision of a house committee of ladies. The curé (himself a refugee) who is at present finding a temporary home at St. George's Retreat visits daily, and his services have been invaluable in ascertaining the best means to make the inmates happy and comfortable. The women do all the housework and attend to the cooking of the meals. The two men have been found employment in the garden, whilst the children have lessons each day by the sisters in charge in a schoolroom which has been given up exclusively for that purpose. All the inmates of the home appear to be quite happy and cheerful, and are full of gratitude for what is being done for them. Their

health is being carefully looked after by three local medical practitioners, Drs. Apthorp, Glover and Strange-Biggs, who have most generously offered their services free of charge during the period that the home may be in existence. Mr. Jaques informs us that the residents in the town have one and all come forward with magnificent generosity. Since an appeal for money was first made, over £135 has been subscribed, and in addition to that sum a weekly list of subscribers have guaranteed about 22s. for six months, thus bringing the total to almost £160. Parcels of clothes, beds, bedding, toys for the children, and provisions of all kind are being daily received, and it is only necessary for the Committee to express a wish for any specific article for it to be at once forthcoming. The visiting days are on Tuesday and Friday in each week, from 2 to 4 p.m., and a member of the Ladies' Committee is always in attendance on those days to show visitors round the home and to answer any enquiries. Amongst the public notices in our advertisement columns will be found a list of donations to date, and it will be observed that as much as £5 8s. 3d. has been received from the students of the Parents' Review School, this sum including the proceeds of a concert given by them. It must be gratifying both to the Local Committee who first took the matter in hand, and the town in general, to have been able to thus provide for at least six months for some of those poor stricken people from the gallant country to whom we at present owe more than can ever be repaid.