

cent. of the standing wages. The Fund is administered by an equal number of representatives of both parties. Members have free choice of doctors, the right to dental treatment, and the use of convalescent homes, &c. The Municipality has assumed responsibility for any accidents that may befall its employees.

The Results : Winning Goodwill.

This method of treating the staff, most of whom were at first hostile or indifferent towards the new administration, has earned the goodwill of the employees, and has rendered possible a series of reforms in the internal administrative service. Whole departments have been abolished, and others have been amalgamated. The whole system of accountancy has been reorganised from top to bottom, and double-entry bookkeeping has been introduced into a series of branches of administration. The staff has proved adequate to the heavy demands made upon it. It is noteworthy that—apart from an eight-day tramway strike—not a single dispute during the six years of Socialist administration has led to a stoppage of work worth mentioning.

The Vienna Police Force is not controlled by the Municipality, but is a State authority. Their rights are regulated and their salaries are paid by the State.

The entire expenditure of the Municipality, on salaries and wages (exclusive of the business undertakings) is estimated for 1925 at 978.8 milliards (£2,936,400) as regards the active employees, and 276.4 milliards (£829,200) for the pensioners. The entire expenditure on staff, which amounted to 26 per cent. of the budget in pre-war times, now comprises 30 per cent. of the total expenditure.

SOCIAL WELFARE WORK.

When the Socialists took over the administration, they found in existence welfare institutions which before the war had proved to be inadequate and during the war had fallen into neglect. Moreover, the spirit in which this welfare work had been carried on was bad. It was the alms-giving spirit of the haughty rich.

The fearful misery of the post-war period made welfare work more urgently necessary than ever before. Mortality had increased by 60 per cent. in comparison with pre-war times, and child mortality by even 100 per cent. Only operations conducted on a large scale could be effectual. Even now the Municipality cannot perform in full measure all the duties that devolve on it, but it has recognised its obligations and strives to discharge them.

Juvenile Welfare Department.

Welfare work begins with the unborn child. Every woman is entitled to apply at the Juvenile Welfare Department not later than

in the fourth month of pregnancy. At fifteen pre-natal clinics a blood test may be taken, in order to combat hereditary syphilis at the earliest possible moment. The women seeking advice are entitled to a small allowance during the first month after confinement. They are afforded legal advice, and given any other aid that the family circumstances may render necessary.

City health visitors are constantly present in all Vienna maternity homes, in order to give assistance to mothers and babies in need. This service covers a large number of cases, as two-fifths of all legitimate and one-half of all illegitimate children are born in maternity homes. The remaining births are also under observation. The registrars of births pass on all particulars of births notified to them to the Juvenile Welfare Department, which sends the visitor to the home. Thus, no child is born in Vienna without the Municipality offering its assistance. Needy mothers are given a supply of baby's clothes. In the ante-natal clinics the mothers receive instructions for the care of the children.

The Juvenile Welfare Department also supervises the welfare of all illegitimate children who are in legal custody. The number of these children is 13,000. The Department also attends to the collection of the allowances payable by the fathers, dealing with 3,700 cases at the end of 1924.

Foster children also come under the care of this Department, whose sanction must be obtained by anyone who desires to take charge of foster children under fourteen years of age. This provides an opportunity for the constant supervision of such children, and also of all illegitimate children who are looked after by their parents. In June, 1924, there were 9,813 of such children in private families and about 3,000 in private welfare institutions in Vienna.

Once a week at seven centres, an expert doctor and a special teacher advise parents or foster parents with regard to the bringing up of backward children. In 1924 there were 1,580 of such cases in nine months.

Six thousand infants are received at one time in the 57 kindergarten of the City. The admission fee amounts to 1,000 kronen ($\frac{3}{4}$ d.) a week, and may be remitted. If desired, the children may have breakfast and dinner (600 calories) upon payment of 24,000 kronen or 1s. 6d. weekly. Necessitous children are exempt from payment.

Accompanied by a health visitor, the school doctor visits the City schools once a fortnight, and provides remedies for any troubles from which the children suffer.

As a result of all this activity, there were 34,000 permanent welfare cases at the end of September, 1924. Of these one-tenth were babies, a third children of tender years, more than half children

of school age, and the rest young persons. The supervision of these cases necessitated over 105,000 house visits and service journeys on the part of the health visitors in the first half of 1924.

The cause of child welfare is also served by the following institutions. Fifteen homes and crèches have been set up in school buildings, and this number is to be rapidly increased. Seventy dining halls for school-meals serve more than a tenth of all scholars. Fifty-two per cent. receive the midday meal without payment. During the summer holidays 1,000 scholars are sent to country homes and 500 to resting homes for periods of 35 days.

The Juvenile Welfare Department is also responsible for managing the Vienna Children Relief Work with which public and private welfare institutions are connected. This work is well supported by the Municipality, and in 1924 it enabled 27,000 children, a fifth of all the Vienna scholars, to have a summer holiday. The Juvenile Welfare Department also runs retreats on the confines of Vienna for 2,000 children; travellers' rests in Vienna and in the Alpine provinces, where a night's lodging may be had for a small payment; playing grounds (25) which are assigned to the schools for certain hours and are otherwise free to the public; skating places (10) and free baths for children (5).

The entire system is supplemented by municipal child welfare institutions. A central registration office classifies all children who need assistance. The infants are sent to a special home. The bigger children are sent to institutions where they stay until a home is found for them. For such children the Municipality pays a maintenance allowance which amounts to as much as 450,000 kronen (£1 7s.). At present the number of children concerned is 15,000. Sick children are placed in nursing homes, and there is a special hospital for children with venereal disease. Children who cannot be placed with foster parents are placed in the City orphanages. For utterly neglected and backward children there are two special institutions, in which the youngsters are educated according to the results of the latest researches. These institutions have their own schools, a number of workshops, and allotments. The pupils stay in the institutions until they are eighteen, when the authorities attend to their settlement in life. There is a school for domestic economy and a school for dress-making, and a Guest House for former city orphans during the time of their business education.

Members of the welfare staff undergo a period of two years' training and continuation courses are also held.

Adult Welfare.

The relief of the poor bears a special importance in Vienna because there is no insurance against old age and disablement in

Austria. The care of men disabled in the war is the business of the State. Unemployment insurance is likewise regulated by State law. The Municipality bears 4 per cent. of the cost, whereas 12 per cent. is provided by the State, and 84 per cent. by employers and workers. A much greater burden than this, however, is imposed upon the Municipality in consequence of the excessive unemployment of the present time.

Additional maintenance grants amounting to a maximum of 300,000 kronen (18s.) monthly are made in the case of 32,000 persons, besides which rent subsidies are granted, as well as assistance in kind.

Indoor relief embraces 11,000 persons accommodated in 12 homes. In this connection many reforms have been carried out. The privileges of a favoured class of so-called "citizens" was abolished. Mentally defective persons are separated from the healthy old people. Existence in the institutions is made much happier than it was formerly for the old people. A certain control is exercised over these institutions by welfare councils, and in the largest of all it has been possible to reduce the mortality to below the pre-war level. There are also shelters for homeless individuals or families, which give accommodation and meals for the performance of certain work.

Engaged in the welfare service are over 5,000 honorary guardians, each of which has charge of a section of its district.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

In this sphere quite new institutions have been created which supplement the ordinary public health service. Mention has already been made of the medical inspection of school children. A special branch of this work is the dental treatment in the schools. The children are trained in the care of the teeth, and treatment is provided where necessary. There are five free baths for children, which were visited by 430,130 youngsters in the summer of 1924.

For combating venereal diseases, centres have been established which are accessible to persons without means, and which give advice and treatment.

A centre has also been established to deal with the drink evil, and many house visits are made, with a view to tendering useful advice. In addition, there is a municipal home for inebriates.

The fight against tuberculosis has been conducted with great efficiency, whereas no machinery of this kind existed in pre-war times. There are nine centres for dealing with this evil. In the year 1924 more than 20,000 examinations were made, and 5,000 patients were sent to institutions.