

requires a short additional course of midwifery nursing to complete her education, should alone be entrusted with the care of respectable lying-in women and their infants. It should be considered "bad form" for a lady to have any help less efficient and reliable. Where the question of expense is a matter for grave concern, the irreducible minimum in the qualification of the cheaper nurse should now be the training and examination required by the Central Midwives' Board. Among the humblest class the intelligent relation or neighbour who will loyally act according to the "doctor's orders" is a safer help than many a so-called monthly nurse.

I maintain that the advertisements which are so rife in the journals read by the nursing profession by which inducements are held out to women to enter certain English, never Scottish, institutions for training as monthly nurses are a shame and discredit to the institutions concerned. They add a paltry contribution to their revenue by a sham and a snare little short of false pretences. I submit that the medical profession are in duty bound to take more interest in this question, to use their influence in support of the only efficient class of nurses, and to help to protect them from an immoral and unfair competition for professional employment. But for the attitude of the medical profession in this matter, bred partly of moral cowardice, partly of indifference, the danger to their patients which the monthly nurse so often brings with her into the lying-in room would be at once swept away.

AN ARBITRARY TERM.

We are glad that so high an authority as Sir William Sinclair is speaking out on the subject of the training of monthly nurses, and its inadequacy as a rule. We confess we should like to see the term "monthly nurse," which is a purely arbitrary one, abolished altogether, and that of maternity nurse generally adopted.

ROYAL MATERNITY CHARITY OF LONDON.

During the past year the 33 midwives of the Royal Maternity Charity of London, 31, Finsbury Square, E.C., have attended 2,376 cases; the number of infants born have been 2,414—1,241 males and 1,173 females—the males thus predominating by 68. There were 36 cases of twins and one of triplets, 84 children were stillborn, and medical assistance was necessary in 143 cases. There were three maternal deaths and 38 deaths of infants. The proportion of maternal deaths was 1.26 per 1,000, of infantile deaths 15.74 per 1,000, and doctors' cases were 6.01 per cent. This is a very creditable record in regard to the skill and care of the midwives of this excellent and deserving

charity, and reveal an amount of hard work only fully appreciated by those who have done practical midwifery.

A SCHOOL FOR MOTHERS.

A booklet entitled "A School for Mothers," published by Mr. Horace Marshall, gives an interesting account of the work done by the school at Somers Town. The introduction is by Sir Thomas Barlow, who says that among the many attempts to deal with infant mortality he doubts if one has been more logically thought out than that at the school above referred to.

THE NEWCASTLE MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

At the Annual Court of Governors of the Lying-in Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne, at which the Lord Mayor presided, it was decided to alter the name of the Hospital and to substitute the word "Maternity" for "Lying-in." The institution will henceforth be known as "The Newcastle Maternity Hospital and Outdoor Charity for Poor Women."

IRISH SCHOOLS OF NURSING.

The *Irish Trained Nurse and Hospital Review* refers editorially to the case of Elizabeth Christina Myerscough, and the action of the Central Midwives' Board in removing the Coombe Lying-in Hospital from the list of recognised training schools owing to an incorrect certificate having been furnished as to the cases delivered by her. The certificate of attendance on cases required by the C.M.B. explicitly requires the certifier to state that the candidate for examination has, under his supervision, "watched the progress of not fewer than 20 labours . . . personally delivering the patient." We are quite aware that both in connection with the L.O.S. and the C.M.B. examinations there has been considerable laxity as to the interpretation of this rule, and that one case has been placed to the credit of half-a-dozen pupils who have watched it but not personally delivered the patient. It is time, however, that this laxity ceased, and the Central Midwives' Board is bound to enforce its own rules.

Our contemporary says:—"A propos of the removal of the Coombe from the list of Training Schools recognised by the C.M.B., the evil goes back to the passing of the Midwives' Act, when a clause should have been inserted establishing a similar Board in Dublin in view of future legislation. As yet the Act does not apply to Ireland, but why is Dublin, where the first School of Midwifery was established, not even to be an examining centre?"

We believe that the view of the Central Midwives' Board is that it has no authority to hold examinations in centres outside the jurisdiction of the Act, which only applies to England and Wales. The first thing, therefore, is for Irish midwives to interest their Parliamentary representatives in obtaining an extension of the Act. We hope at the same time they will ask for representation on the Midwives' Board, and not be content to be governed by a body which, according to its present constitution, need not include one midwife.

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