

The tragedy of thousands of women losing their lives annually in the British Isles during their confinement, appeals to everybody. The citizen woman's aim is to restore health and preserve life and this she can do by antiseptic midwifery.

THE ROYAL MATERNITY CHARITY.

Owing to the deaths of Drs. Robert and Fancourt Barnes, Consulting Physicians to the Royal Maternity Charity of London, the following gentlemen have been unanimously elected by the Committee to fill the vacant posts: Dr. Henry Gervis, M.D., F.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., F.S.A., J.P., and Dr. George Ernest Herman, M.B., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.

THE NURSING OF MATERNITY CASES.

A midwife who has had considerable experience in connection with a large lying-in hospital in training pupil midwives and monthly nurses, is of opinion that many nurses who have had general training find it difficult to take an interest in the ordinary lying-in cases, as the patients are not ill. But if this is so, surely they take a wrong view of the end to be attained by their work as maternity nurses, which is wholly directed to the prevention of illness. A normal temperature and pulse chart and good health on the part of the patient are signs that the object of good nursing has been fulfilled, and as a healthy complexion is more beautiful to eyes that see things in their true proportions than the hectic flush of phthisis, and the uneventful recovery of a patient suffering from a wound which heals by first intention, a greater evidence of surgical skill and good nursing than the struggle with septic conditions, when these have been allowed to develop, so is the evidence of health in a maternity patient a condition which should make a good nurse supremely content, and one which no effort should be counted too great to secure.

The Central Midwives' Board.

The monthly meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, March 19th. Dr. F. H. Champneys presided.

The re-election of Mr. J. Ward Cousins as the representative of the Royal College of Surgeons, and of Mr. E. Parker Young as representative of the Society of Apothecaries, was notified to the Board. A letter was also received from the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, informing the Board that the chief constables of counties and boroughs, and the Commissioners of Police of the Metropolis, and of the City of London, had been requested to report convictions of midwives direct to the Board.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

In connection with a request from the Devon and Cornwall Training School for Nurses, that the Board should hold an examination at Plymouth, it was agreed to reply that when not less than twenty candidates can be guaranteed, the Board will consider the suggestion of making Plymouth a centre.

The Board agreed to the request of the authorities of the Coombe Hospital, Dublin, to re-instate the Hospital as an approved training school, being satisfied with the straightforward way in which they have dealt with the circumstances which led to its removal from the roll.

On consideration of the report of the Sub-Committee on a scheme for providing for the training and supply of midwives, the Board affirmed a series of propositions, and directed that a copy should be sent to the Privy Council.

These propositions were: (1) That Midwives (who are "a necessity") will be unable to make a living in many localities without extraneous aid. (2) That such localities are very often exactly those in which their presence is most necessary from the poverty and (in some cases) the sparseness of the population. (3) That voluntary contributions cannot be relied upon to supply the whole of the necessary financial aid. (4) That for this purpose a Government grant is a necessity. (5) That if such a grant were provided the Board think that the Government should be responsible for the administration of the Fund thus constituted.

Dr. A. Campbell and Dr. Mary E. H. Morris were appointed as teachers, and the following midwives, A. H. Cowell (18014), and M. Huxtable (21671) were approved for the purpose of signing Forms III. and IV.

Mr. Ward Cousins brought forward a resolution affirming that "as no arrangement for the payment of medical men summoned to assist certified midwives has been made, satisfactory to the medical practitioners of the country, the time has arrived for the Board to reconsider the question with special reference to the efficient operation of the Midwives' Act, 1902." This was seconded by Mr. Parker Young.

An amendment was proposed by Dr. Stanley Atkinson, and accepted by the proposer and seconder, that the resolution should read, "satisfactory to medical practitioners and midwives respectively." It was also agreed to ask Mr. John Burns, President of the Local Government Board, to receive a deputation on the subject.

In his report as visitor to the Newcastle Examination Board, Dr. Herman drew attention to the fact that while examiners did not know the names of the candidates they were examining, the schools which sent these candidates could easily be identified by their uniforms. It was a question whether they should not be asked to attend the examination out of uniform. The letter was referred to the Standing Committee.

On the casting vote of the Chairman the resolution of the Board of December 19th, refusing the application of Dr. Colquhoun, of Glasgow, was rescinded, and his name added to the list of recognised teachers.

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