

## The Midwife.

### The East End Mothers' Lying-in Home.

The friends of the East End Mothers' Lying-in Home assembled at the Home, 394, Commercial Road, E., on Wednesday, May 20, for the Annual Meeting, and also to inspect the new premises, which include new wards for the accommodation of seven patients, and new rooms for the staff and pupils, who have hitherto been housed on the opposite side of the road. It was a lovely day, and many people found their way down the Commercial Road, that great thoroughfare throbbing and pulsating with the vitality of the East End, a region not often penetrated by the motor-cars of the fashionable residents in the West, but in which life is seen under the most strenuous conditions, and in the neighbourhood of which those who are not in want to-day freely help others who are, with a sympathy begotten of the remembrance of times when their own cupboard has been bare, and of the knowledge that under similar conditions in the future their neighbours will help them with an unstinting generosity unknown in communities of which the members are not from time to time faced with starvation.

In such a neighbourhood it is difficult to estimate the good accomplished by an institution like the East End Mothers' Home, and the Chairman of the Committee of Management, and of the meeting, Mr. Owen Lankester, F.R.C.S., made out an excellent case for the Home in pleading for financial support, as did also the Treasurer, Mr. H. de R. Walker, Esq., M.P.

A very interesting address was given by Mrs. Fletcher, who described how on the invitation of the Chairman she had visited the Home and fallen under the spell of the Lady Superintendent, Miss Anderson, who had discussed with her the possibilities of keeping in touch with the mothers after they leave the institution. The result was the establishment of the weekly meeting for former patients, who were most pleased to come back again. Generally some eighty mothers, and babies, attended the weekly meeting, and the results of these talks with the mothers were so encouraging that if a larger room could be found the speaker believed the district would be revolutionised. There was not one of the eighty babies that one could not take up and kiss. The mothers also went back and talked over what they

heard at the meeting with their husbands, and in this way the meetings were a great help to the homes.

Amongst the useful agencies connected with the Home is the Needlework Guild, organised by Miss Nina Lankester, which last year provided 64 babies with trousseaux, when they left the Home, but at least 800 of these bundles are needed annually, and it is hoped that some other needlework circles may be found.

At the conclusion of the meeting tea was served in the new wards, so that the visitors had an opportunity of inspecting them, and also of learning from the cards displayed on the walls what is needed to furnish them. Amongst these things are seven bolsters at 2s. each, and seven pillows at 3s. 6d., gifts within the means of the most modest purses.

### The Higher Training of Midwives.

The annual meeting of subscribers and friends to the Council for the Promotion of the Higher Training of Midwives was held on Thursday, the 21st May, at 24, Park Lane, by permission of Lady Brassey, who kindly took the chair in the absence of the Countess of Stamford.

The Report showed that much good work had been done, but owing to the limited number of beds, and to lack of funds, which prevented extension, many appeals addressed to the Home for Mothers and Babies at Woolwich, supported by the Council, had to be refused. The number of patients admitted during 1907 was 154, and there were no maternal deaths during the year. The speakers were the Bishop of Ripon, the Archdeacon of Lewisham, Dr. Annie McCall, and Dr. Ralph Vincent.

Archdeacon Escreet, who moved the adoption of the Report, stated that the old midwives were being frightened off the field by the stringent and necessary regulations of the Central Midwives' Board; comparatively few were rising up to take their places and the appalling records of mortality remained undiminished. It was necessary, therefore, to recruit a totally new order of midwives from among the educated classes, and to make possible for them a two years' training in the combined study of nursing and midwifery. Demands for such midwives had poured in upon the Committee of Management, but the institution was limited to twelve beds, and the

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