

## LECTURES TO MIDWIVES.

Two lectures to midwives were given on 24th and 25th of September, at Radstock, near Bath, by Miss du Sautoy, the Inspector of Midwives for the county. They were fairly well attended, nineteen out of a possible thirty coming on the two days, many from a considerable distance. The first lecture was devoted to the "Mother," a bed, made on the table, a bolster to represent the patient, and a doll for the baby, being used. Special stress was laid on the great importance of cleanliness, especially of the nails, etc., and non-interference during labour.

The second lecture was on the "Baby," when the lecturer pointed out how important the midwives' work is; that, according to the advice given to the parent, and the treatment given to the infant by the midwife, may depend the future health and well-being of the child, and even of that child's children. The reasons for putting flannel or wool next the baby, giving it plenty of fresh air, and a daily bath were explained, as well as hints about the feeding, cleanliness of bottles, etc. At the close of the lecture, Dr. Pollard gave a short address, and explained to the midwives the great danger of dust.

## DOOR-PLATE TITLES.

A large number of practising midwives are by no means satisfied with the result of the petition to the Midwives' Board for permission to display on doorplates further qualifications to that of "Certified Midwife," the official title permitted by the Board. The right to add "by examination" has been granted to those midwives who were not placed on the roll by right of "practice"; the desire was to notify the training school. Well qualified midwives naturally object to association with those ignorant and untrained, but time will right the wrong of "vested interests" so carefully guarded by British Parliaments. Much better let the public run the risk of death rather than deprive the "unfit" of turning a dishonest penny at its expense think the majority of legislators. After 1910 midwives will have a chance of dissociation from the unfit.

## GUARDIANS AND MIDWIFERY FEES.

Considering the arduous nature of midwifery, we are in sympathy with medical practitioners being assured of reasonable fees when called in by a midwife. The Poor Law Amendment Act provides for guardians of the poor remunerating medical practitioners for rendering such assistance.

The Council of the Counties Medical Protection Society have adopted a series of resolutions, of which the following are of interest to midwives:—

1. That it should be clearly understood that no doctor shall be expected to attend on the summons of a midwife unless he chooses to undertake such work at the fees guaranteed by the guardians, or others.

2. That the fees of doctors summoned by mid-

wives should be paid to them in all cases without requiring from them any proof of the poverty of the patients, any necessary inquiry being made by the boards of guardians, or others, who should pay the fees of the medical practitioners without demur, and then take such steps as they might think fit to recover the fees when the patients are able to pay them.

3. That when a doctor is summoned by a midwife to operate or attend on a woman in a serious emergency he should be the judge as to whether or not he should visit the patient again, and, if so, how often, and that for these visits the doctor should be entitled to the usual fees in addition to the fee for the operation or attendance.

## MATERNITY WORK IN HUDDERSFIELD.

Yorkshire seems somewhat behind the times in the matter of provision for maternity cases. Even the city of York has only just begun to think of a Maternity Hospital, and Huddersfield is still without one. The need of such a home was emphasised at the Annual Meeting of the Huddersfield and Sick Poor Nursing Association.

In moving the adoption of the report, the Chairman (Mr. G. F. Welsh) said he hoped the time would soon come when they would have a Maternity Home established in the town.

Colonel Freeman, in seconding, said that whilst Alderman Broadbent, the Deputy-Mayor, had done a great and noble work in reducing infantile mortality, there was quite as much to be done in saving the lives of mothers. Many mothers died for want of proper attention. He endorsed the observations of the Chairman as to the necessity of a Maternity Home.

Before the conclusion of the meeting Miss Abraham, the Matron of the Association, was presented with a purse of gold in acknowledgment of her services prior to her departure to take up a similar position at Newcastle.

## THE NEWPORT MATERNITY HOME.

In opening the extension of the Newport Maternity Home and Monmouthshire Training Centre for Midwives, last week, Lady Llangattock spoke highly of the valuable and useful work which was carried on. She knew, she said, by experience in five parishes in her own locality of the very great value of the work done amongst the poorer classes.

Mrs. Charles H. Bailey presided over the meeting which assembled for the inauguration of the extension, and the Superintendent, Sister Barrett, made an interesting speech in which she said that in less than three years, except for the initial cost of the buildings, the home, founded by Mrs. Bailey and her late husband, was being made self-supporting. She claimed that it was not a charity, but a business training centre, where both nurses and mothers learnt how to decrease both infantile and maternal mortality. Miss Jane Wilson, of the Central Midwives' Board, had reported in terms of high praise upon the work of the home.

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