

The Midwife.

Midwives Act Committee.

We are officially informed by the Chairman, Mr. Almeric Fitzroy, C.V.O., that the Committee appointed by the Lord President of the Council to consider the working of the Midwives' Act, held their preliminary meeting on Wednesday, December 16th, at the Privy Council Office. Mr. Almeric Fitzroy was in the chair, and all the members were present. The course of procedure was arranged, and it was decided to hold the first meeting for the hearing of evidence on Wednesday, January 20th.

It is requested that any communications to the Committee may be addressed to the Secretary, Midwives' Act Committee, Privy Council Office, Whitehall, S.W.

The Committee will consider the working of the Midwives' Act with reference to the supply of midwives, the cost of training, the remuneration of medical men summoned on the advice of midwives under the rules in pursuance of the Act, and the delegation of their powers by County Councils under the Act. The joint secretaries are Mr. H. J. Stanley, private secretary to the Lord President, and Mr. F. J. Welch, Staff Clerk, Local Government Board.

NO MIDWIVES ON THE COMMITTEE.

The President of the Midwives' Institute writes:—"The absence of any midwife on the Departmental Committee, which is appointed to enquire into their training, etc., is a subject which must cause painful surprise to all who are acquainted with the questions at issue. It is impossible to contemplate the appointment of a Committee to enquire into the medical curriculum without a doctor upon it; such an idea seems absurd. And yet, of the 26,000 women on the Midwives' Roll not one has been chosen to deliberate and to give very essential help in weighing the evidence given and in drawing up the final report. Many of these women are well qualified by official or semi-official appointments, and practical experience to serve on the Committee, and their possible admission as witnesses cannot serve as a substitute for the exclusion of at least one to aid in the deliberations of the Committee." We entirely agree with Miss Wilson, and hope that after Christmas she will call a meeting of midwives with the object of making strong representation to the Government as to the justice and necessity of giving representation to midwives

both on the Departmental Committee, and on the Central Midwives' Board. That is what nurses would do in a similar case.

Mothers' and Babies' Welcome.

On Wednesday last week the Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell and the Committee of the St. Pancras School for Mothers entertained its friends at the Mothers' and Babies' Welcome, removed to spacious new premises at 37, Chalton Street, Euston Road, N.W., in the heart of just such a population as the Welcome is designed to benefit. The decoration of the interior of the Welcome, though simple, is charming. The paper throughout, except in the entrance hall, is maize colour, and the paint dark brown, a most effective and harmonious combination. The screens are also covered with maize coloured muslin. The pictures too are delightful. Over the mantelpiece in the consultation room on the first floor is a large horseshoe in brown wood, bearing in red letters the words, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world"; it encircles a beautiful framed photograph of a Madonna and Child.

Another legend inscribed on the walls, which the Committee put into practice, is "Feed the mother save the child." Any expectant or nursing mother on the recommendation of the doctor can have a good dinner at the Home daily at a cost of 1½d. There are consultations twice a week for the weighing of mothers and babies, and many other good works are carried on, such as lessons on food, food values, and prices, classes on simple cookery, on cutting out and making babies' clothes, on housewifery, etc. Then there is a Provident Maternity Club; and fathers' evening conferences are held on the duty of the father to the mother, the children, and the home. At these conferences, coffee is provided, and smoking is allowed. There were some excellent cradles on view, some made from the proverbial "banana box." Others could be folded up and put away like a card table. Some admirable fireguards, costing 1s. each, which can be paid for in instalments, were also exhibited.

Interesting speeches, describing the work of the Welcome, were made by Mrs. Bertrand Russell and Mrs. Carl Meyer, and a cordial invitation was extended to those present to come and see the Home when the mothers and babies are there, any afternoon except Monday and Saturday.

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