

in the inmost sanctuary of their being; and with the development of the child there must penetrate the consciousness of the mother, as a ray of light through the dark cloud which envelops her, that the unknown father is not its exclusive parent, that it is bone of her bone, and flesh of her flesh, and as—not excluding the instinct for the preservation of life—the maternal instinct is the strongest in the world, a tenderness for her unborn infant must surely develop in the mother's heart, and the desire that the protection which she at present gives it shall not cease with its entry into a world where it is unwanted and unwelcome, that, so far as in her lies, the sins of its father shall not be visited upon its innocent infancy, but that, God helping her, she will give it the affection which is the right of every child, and will keep the direction of its life in her own hands.

One other point which may add to the horror of the situation cannot escape notice—the possibility of the infection of the mother with specific disease. The problem of the child may in this case be solved by the occurrence of spontaneous abortion, but the plight of the mother demands our profoundest sympathy.

Of the Sisters we hesitate to speak, well knowing the mental and moral shock which they have suffered and are suffering, but, we venture to think that, since maternity has been forced upon them, they should not repudiate its obligations. The way in which they meet this trouble will test to the uttermost the depth and sincerity of their religious profession. But the Divine Master, to whose service they are pledged, understands their griefs, in His Sacred Heart their bruised and broken hearts will find refuge and compassion. They will surely be His very special charge. We may hope too that in their convents, surrounded by the love of their communities, they will be safe from the strife of tongues, and be permitted to fulfil the duties of motherhood to their fatherless children, who especially need a mother's care.

Surely the nurses and midwives of this country to whose lot it falls to nurse these stricken mothers, have a very special privilege in the opportunity thus afforded them of helping to bind up the brokenhearted.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

The following is the Examination Paper set to candidates for the Examination of the Central Midwives Board on February 11th:—

1. Describe the non-pregnant uterus, and its position in the pelvis in relation to the surrounding organs.
2. Describe in detail your method of abdominal palpation. Write notes of a real or imaginary case in which the palpation discovers (1) a second vertex position, (2) a transverse lie.
3. Give the causes of early rupture of the membranes, and its disadvantages.
4. Describe the natural process of the separation and expulsion of the placenta, and the way in which you would watch over it.

5. What rashes may a baby develop during the first ten days of its life? Which of these are serious, and how would you recognise and deal with them?

6. What are the conditions in the case of a lying-in woman in which by the Rules medical help must be sent for? Explain the significance of each condition, and the reason why medical aid is called for.

THE ROYAL MATERNITY CHARITY OF LONDON.

The Annual Meeting of the Royal Maternity Charity of London took place at the Charity's House, 31, Finsbury Square, E.C., on Wednesday, February 10th, at 3.45 p.m., when the chair was occupied by Mrs. Probyn (Deputy Chairman). The attendance was regrettably small.

The various reports were read by the Secretary, whose own Statistical Report showed that the cases attended during 1914 were 934; the infants born were 958; there were 24 twin cases and 40 still-births; the maternal deaths were three and the deaths of infants 11; the ages of the mothers were from 18 to 49; medical help was sent for in 10.70 per cent. of the cases; the cost per patient is £1 10s. 6d.

The Medical Committee reported that, judging from the reports of the surgeons and midwives who attended the cases every possible care was taken of the patients. Six pupils of the school have passed the examination of the Central Midwives' Board during the year.

The general report stated that the misconceptions arising out of the National Insurance Act had diminished the number of subscribers, but there were hundreds of people who received no maternity benefit from the State, and relied entirely on the Charity and similar institutions in their hour of need.

The Chairman then paid a deserved tribute to the work of the Secretary (Major Killick) for the Charity, and the Major said that the midwives were the backbone of the Charity. He would like their patients to come to the Annual General Meeting.

The General Committee (with one exception) and the Auditor were re-elected.

On the proposition of a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, and the General Committee, Mrs. Probyn said that in her opinion the Committee did not deserve the vote of thanks, they should have been there. Their Chairman, Major Tasker, was prevented by his military duties from being present, but it was very disheartening when members of the Committee did not attend the Annual Meeting.

The meeting then concluded, and, after the pleasant fashion of the Charity, tea was served.

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to send a gift of £3 to Mrs. Simms, an out-patient of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, who recently gave birth to triplet boys, being attended by one of the hospital midwives.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)