

The Midwife.

PRINCESS MARY AND MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, has accepted the invitation of the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Rushton, to lay the foundation stone on March 12th of the new Maternity Hospital, to be built on a site at the corner of Mount Pleasant and Oxford Street. The present hospital on Brownlow Hill is inadequate to the needs of the city, and some years ago a movement was inaugurated to build a larger hospital, the late Sir William Hartley giving £25,000 to be used proportionately as other money was subscribed by the public. Another £25,000 has now been raised and the Building Committee has therefore decided to begin building the first portion. Another £50,000 is needed to complete the £100,000 required for the hospital of 90 beds.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

DECEMBER EXAMINATION.

At the Examination of the Central Midwives' Board, held in December last in London and the Provinces, 659 candidates were examined, and 532 passed the examiners. The percentage of failures was 19.3.

THE REVISED RULES.

The Revised Rules, framed by the Central Midwives' Board, are now published. They came into force on January 1st, and may be obtained from Messrs. Spottiswoode, Ballantyne & Co., Ltd., 1, New Street Square, London, price 7½d. post free.

The principal alterations are as follows:—

EVIDENCE OF GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIRED.

"Candidates showing insufficient general education in the Written Examination may be refused admission to the Oral Examination" (Note to Rule B.1, page 7).

EXCLUSION FROM EXAMINATION AND FROM THE ROLL.

"The Board shall be under no obligation to admit to examination any person whom it considers to be physically, mentally, or morally unfitted to be a midwife, nor to place upon the Roll of Midwives the name of any such person, nor to issue a certificate to her" (Rule B.3, page 8).

RESTORATION TO THE ROLL.

The statements in an application for restoration to the Roll of a name removed must be supported by the certificate of the Local Supervising Authority of the district in which the applicant was resident "at the time when her name was removed from the Roll (and if at the time of her application she be resident in another district, then by the certificate of the Local Supervising Authority of such district also" (Rule D.18, page 19).

DIRECTIONS TO MIDWIVES.

The following directions should be carefully noted:—

"A woman whose name is on the Midwives' Roll is acting as:

A. A Midwife, and is subject to the Rules, and is therefore bound to notify the Local Supervising Authority of the fact under Section 10 of the Midwives' Act, 1902,

(a) When she has been engaged to deliver the patient;

(b) When sent for in an emergency, no doctor having been engaged;

(c) When a doctor makes an arrangement with a midwife engaged as a maternity nurse that he is not to be sent for unless she requires him;

(d) When a doctor arranges with a midwife that she shall deliver patients for him;

(e) When a doctor has been engaged to deliver the

patient and she has sent for him on the onset of labour but she leaves the house after delivery before he arrives.

NOTE.—The case should be entered in her Register in the usual way, and in (c), (d), and (e) the date on which the case is handed back to the doctor and her position as a nurse is resumed.

B. A Maternity Nurse and is not subject to the rules (except Rules E. 6, 18, 22 (1), (d) and (c), 22 (2), 23 (d), and (e) and 28).

When a doctor has been engaged to deliver the patient and she has sent for him on the onset of labour and he arrives before she leaves the house.

If these conditions are not fulfilled she is subject to all the rules" (Rule E, page 20).

RECORD OF ANTE-NATAL VISITS DESIRABLE.

"It is desirable that midwives should keep notes of their ante-natal visits, for reference later, should occasion arise" (Note to Rule E.1, page 21).

DUTIES TO PATIENTS.

"Midwives must not, except under a grave emergency, undertake operative procedure or any treatment which is outside their province. The question whether in any particular case such procedure or treatment was justified will be judged on the facts and circumstances of the case" (Note to Rule E.7, page 23).

"If after ceasing to attend a case the midwife subsequently attends a mother or child suffering from illness connected with the confinement, all rules under Section E (in so far as they are appropriate to the case) shall apply" (Rule E.12, page 24).

CONDITIONS OF SUSPENSIONS.

It is not intended that suspensions authorised by Rule F.4 (a) and (b) shall be used for punitive purposes (Note to Rule F.4).

A CHANGE OF PURPOSE.

Bermondsey Municipal Lying-in Hospital is being run at a serious loss, and the Council are recommended to close it and consider the use of the premises as a Maternity and Child Welfare centre.

THE BABIES OF THE EMPIRE.

The National Baby Week Council is organising a competition open to the Babies of the Empire. The judging will be, in the first instance, from photographs duly attested by medical practitioners. The winners are to be exhibited at Wembley so that the public may vote for the bonniest baby.

TWO LITTLE STARS.

Two little stars fell out of bed

Yesterday night when I was sleeping.

"Dear, oh dear!" the mother moon said,
Surely "I saw my star babes leaping."

Down they fell from the evening sky,

Yesterday night when I was sleeping,

Down and down from the heavens high,

Where poor mother moon was still a-peeping.

A baby was borne on mother's breast,

Round to see it we all came creeping;

But those two star babes had made a nest

In baby's eyes, and were soundly sleeping.

HELEN DOUGLAS ADAM.

From "The Elfin Pedlar and Tales Told by the Pixie Pool."

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