

The Midwife.

Annual Conference on Maternity and Child Welfare.

Church House, Westminster, London, S.W.1
June 10th, 11th and 12th, 1953.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON maternity and child welfare will be held in London on the above dates under the general theme of:—

"EDUCATION FOR PARENTHOOD"

The general outline of the proceedings will be on the following lines:—

June 10th (morning). Formal opening (it is hoped by a member of the Government), followed by three main contributions:—

- (1) Education of the child at home and at school.
- (2) Education of the "teenager."
- (3) Educating public opinion.

June 10th (afternoon). Group Discussions.

June 11th (morning). Reports from Groups and Discussions.

June 11th (afternoon). Demonstration of Visual Aids and Tea.

June 12th (morning). Lectures and Discussions:—

- (1) Voluntary work in centres and clinics.
- (2) Progress in parentcraft teaching.
- (3) Co-operation in the field of child welfare.

June 12th (afternoon). Visits.

The fee for the conference will be £1 1s. for three days. This fee will not include any visits which may be made.

The Secretary will be pleased to furnish any further particulars upon application to the National Association for Maternity and Child Welfare, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

New Maternity Hospital at Stroud.

MISS I. HASKINS, at present matron of the Cotswold Maternity Home at Tetbury (Glos), has been appointed matron of the New Maternity Hospital at Stroud, which is to be opened by Mr. H. G. Tanner, Chairman of the South-Western Regional Hospital Board, on March 30th.

The new hospital will accommodate 19 maternity cases but only where home accommodation is inadequate will cases be admitted. Maternity cases in which there is likely to be medical difficulty will be dealt with at the City General Maternity Home, Gloucester.

The Stroud Hospital is of the modern pavilion type with accommodation not only for 19 beds but also for ante-natal examinations. It has a most up-to-date operating theatre suite and specially designed kitchens.

A house immediately adjacent to the hospital has been purchased and converted to accommodate the nursing staff, among whom will be a number of the existing staff of the Cotswold Maternity Home which is to close down.

Estimate of Future Births.

335,000 Babies expected in the First Six Months of 1953.

THE QUARTERLY ESTIMATE of the number of live births to be expected in England and Wales as a whole during the six months January-June, 1953, was recently announced by the Registrar General.

The final estimate for the March quarter is 170,000 and the provisional estimate for the June quarter is 165,000, giving an estimated total of 335,000 babies in the six months.

There were 173,503 live births registered in the March quarter 1952, and 174,089 in the June quarter of that year—a total of 347,592.

In the week ended January 24th, 1953, there were 7,508 live births registered in the 160 Great Towns of England



Oh, bonnie bairns playing in your father's lovely garden, we say to each—

"Fair be all thy hopes
And prosperous thy life."

and Wales, compared with 7,547 in the previous week. This brings the total in those towns from the first week of the year to 22,738, compared with 22,683 in the same period a year ago.

OPENING OF SPRINGDALE DAY NURSERY STOKE NEWINGTON.

THE NEW Springdale Day Nursery, with accommodation for 50 children, was opened by Mrs. E. M. Rankin, J.P., Chairman of the L.C.C. Health Committee, on Thursday, February 12th.

The nursery, which was designed by the Council's Architect, Mr. Robert H. Matthew, has been built at a cost of about £15,300. It will cater for 10 children under one year of age, 15 between one and two years, and 25 over two years.

The story of the new nursery goes back to 1947 when Stoke Newington Metropolitan Borough Council were considering the purchase of a site in Springdale Road for the erection of a temporary day nursery to meet the needs of the area, the more so as they were being pressed to relinquish accommodation at St. Anne's Home which had been requisitioned and used for a day nursery. However, the Borough Council were not able to proceed with the scheme before the London County Council became responsible for providing day nurseries under the National Health Service Act. The L.C.C. acquired the present site in January, 1950, and building began in October, 1951.

The building comprises mainly accommodation of Ministry of Works pattern, with 4½ in. brick filling. Heating is by low pressure hot water from gas-fired boilers.

Geographically Springdale Day Nursery is in Division 4 (Hackney, Shoreditch and Stoke Newington). However, the nursery at St. Anne's Home had been closed in June, 1951, the children being absorbed into other nurseries, and after a review of day nursery accommodation in the area, the L.C.C. Health Committee decided that the new nursery should serve primarily the needs of Division 3 (Finsbury, Holborn, Islington). It will replace the existing nursery at Clephane Road, Islington, which is in requisitioned property. Springdale Day Nursery is therefore to be administered by the Divisional Health Committee for Division 3.

The transfer from the Clephane Road nursery has taken place and only a small amount of new equipment will therefore need to be provided at Springdale Day Nursery.

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