

## The Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives.

A meeting of the Council of the Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives was held, by kind permission of Mrs. Charles Schwann at 4, Princes Gardens, S.W., on May 17th.

The chair was taken by Miss Wilson, President of the Midwives' Institute and Member of the Central Midwives' Board. Among those present were:—Lady Balfour of Burleigh, Lady Lucy Hicks Beach, the Hon. Mrs. Egerton, Lady Norman, Lady Prideaux, Miss Rosalind Paget, Dr. Boxall, the Rev. T. H. Cavell, Mr. Charles Schwann, M.P., and Dr. Salaman.

Among the new Members of Council elected were the Duchess of Montrose, Muriel Viscountess Helmsley, the Countess of Lytton, and Lady Brassey.

Mrs. Wallace Bruce, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, stated in her report that Mr. Arthur A. Leon, L.C.C., had consented to become Treasurer of the Association, and that Mr. Cosmo Bonsor (Treasurer of Guy's Hospital), Mr. Raffles Hughes, K.C., and Dr. Salaman, of the London Hospital, had joined the Finance Committee. She reported that a definite scheme of training had been drawn up, and in order to secure midwives for nursing among the poor, in town and country, free or assisted training was given by the Association to candidates willing to bind themselves to district midwifery for a definite period. Training vacancies had been engaged by the Committee at Queen Charlotte's Hospital; the Lying-in Hospital, York Road; the East End Mothers' Home; the Glasgow Maternity Hospital; and the Cheltenham District Nursing Home. Reference was made to the Training Home at East Ham in connection with the Plaistow Maternity Charity started by the Association last year. Since the opening of the Home in November, 1903, 189 infants had been under the care of the midwife-in-charge and the pupils under training, and more than 4,000 visits had been paid. As the work is in a very poor district, an immense amount of good is thus done to many mothers and infants, and it has proved an excellent training-ground for the pupils. The cost of sixteen weeks' training with board and lodging is £19 6s. 8d.

The need of arousing local interest in the question of training midwives in accordance with the Act of 1902 is fully recognised by the Committee, and drawing-room meetings had been held at Hastings, Battle, Birkenhead, and Newport, while others are in course of arrangement. A meeting at Leicester convened by the National Union of Women Workers had been addressed by Mrs. Wallace Bruce, and a representative of the Association will speak in June at one of the meetings in connection with the Cartwright Memorial Exhibition recently opened at Bradford.

It was stated that the question of finance was one of great anxiety to the Executive Committee. Sufficient funds were in hand to meet the expenses of the year, but there was no room for expansion. No further training could be undertaken than that already mentioned, which the Committee are well aware is but a very small measure of what is needed. They feel that a strong effort must be made to raise money. The sum of £1,000 would train fifty mid-

wives, and it was felt that a direct appeal must be made for this amount to form the nucleus of a training fund. The Committee had been greatly encouraged by several generous donations; two of £20 each had been sent for special training, and it was felt that if more people would show their interest in this way the work would be greatly strengthened.

Some interesting discussion took place on various methods of getting into touch with local authorities, and others interested in the question, in view of the evident difficulties which must arise in providing midwives in sufficient numbers to meet future requirements; it was resolved, on the motion of Lady Balfour of Burleigh:—"That a large public meeting be held in the autumn."

This was seconded by Dr. Salaman, who said he felt strongly that every effort should be made to supply an adequate number of midwives, for he considered that healthy infants were the mainstay of the nation, and as needful as an efficient army.

In order to facilitate the business of the Association, a resolution was passed to the effect that the annual meeting will be held early in the year instead of at midsummer, as had been previously arranged. According to the constitution of the Association, the financial year ends on December 31st, and it was considered more satisfactory that the working year should also end at that date. The annual meeting of subscribers and friends of the Association will therefore take place early in 1905. The office of the Association is at 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, where the Secretary is in attendance from 10 to 1 o'clock daily, except on Saturdays.

## The Isolation of Small-pox in Germany.

An instructive report by Dr. R. Bruce Low, Medical Inspector of the Local Government Board, on the "Arrangements made in Germany for the Isolation of Small-pox Cases" has just been issued by the Department in question.

What strikes a reader versed in English sanitary administration as the most extraordinary fact brought out in this report is that in Germany separate small-pox hospitals are only provided in very rare instances. Even in Berlin, with its population of about 2,000,000, small-pox cases not isolated at home are sent to the Royal Charite Hospital, which, with its 1,500 beds, is the largest general hospital in the Prussian capital. In this institution one pavilion with two wards, and a total accommodation for twelve beds, is reserved for small-pox. The pavilion is not shut off from the rest of the hospital save by a low open iron fence, easily surmountable, which surrounds that portion of the site reserved for infectious diseases, for which there are in all three pavilions. The small-pox pavilion is only about 24 ft. distant from one used for scarlet fever, and only about 150 ft. from the hospital boundary wall, which abuts on the street in a fairly populous neighbourhood. The nurses engaged in the infectious disease pavilions are accommodated in a small separate block, and do not sleep in the general nursing block. The cooking for the small-pox nurses and patients, however, is done at the central kitchen, whence the food is brought to the special

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