

The Midwife.

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"Midwives are heard but seldom."

In an exhaustive article in the *Lancet* of February 23rd, Dr. C. J. Cullingworth gives a full account of the history of the Obstetrical Society of London (now merged in the Royal Society of Medicine) and its examinations for midwives. One paragraph is of special interest just at the present moment, when there is a movement amongst midwives to become articulate, and to take means to express themselves effectively on matters which affect their common interests. It is as follows:

"It has been too often forgotten in the course of the many bitter controversies which the midwives' question has provoked during recent years that there is a midwives' point of view as well as a doctor's, and that although the primary object of midwives' legislation is to benefit the labouring classes, no legislation can be satisfactory, or successful, which is unfair either to the medical profession or to the midwives. The medical profession has been heard on the subject—shall I say?—*ad nauseam*; the midwives are heard but seldom. When they do speak they should have a patient hearing."

The present seems an opportune moment for midwives to make themselves heard. As we have already stated, it is probable that steps may shortly be taken to secure amendments to the Midwives' Act, and midwives need a strong organisation, so that if necessity arises, they can take concerted action to represent their point of view to Parliament. An interesting quotation is the statement made by Dr. Matthews Duncan, when he occupied the Presidential Chair of the London Obstetrical Society:

"The improvement and extension of the practice of ordinary midwifery by women is a most desirable object. Many people still living remember the time when the whole of this practice was in female hands. It was taken from them by the other sex, not because they were male, but in consequence of their superior education and scientific attainments. . . . If women are to be reinstated in the practice of midwifery, whether in unnatural or in natural labour, it is education and science alone that can do it, and women may be sure that these are irresistible."

These are wise words. We shall do well to ponder them.

The Central Midwives' Board.

LIST OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.

February Examination.

At the recent examination of the Central Midwives' Board 389 candidates were examined, and 291 passed. The percentage of failures was 25.2.

LONDON.

Queen Charlotte's Hospital.—Jane Bell, J. C. Blomfield, G. E. Blott, M. E. Clark, L. M. Counsell, L. Dobson, E. K. England, A. K. Fenn, E. K. Fuller, L. Irwin, R. E. Johnstone, B. L. Margrave, V. M. Moore, E. P. Parks, M. Randell, L. S. Robson, C. A. Tweedy, W. J. Woodforde.

Clapham Maternity Hospital.—Ellen Beadon, C. Bone, C. E. Green, C. H. Harper, A. B. Northcott, H. Ullmann, C. Watney, N. L. Watson.

East End Mothers' Home.—E. M. Collins, J. E. Hight, C. Reeve, O. M. Rounds.

General Lying In Hospital, York Road.—Selina A. Adams, Mary Andrews, C. Caffin, W. E. Eady, M. Gration, E. Hastie, J. Judge, E. S. Lawrence, Annie Lewis, G. A. J. Lloyd, K. V. Lloyd, N. W. Mackintosh, O. Matthews, L. H. H. O'Reilly, A. J. Pilton, A. M. Ragg, D. R. Roberts, R. I. Shephard, E. L. Stephens, E. E. Stiff, F. E. Stilwell, G. A. Taylor, M. L. Trenerry, D. M. C. Wadling, A. Wall, A. M. Whitehead.

London Hospital.—G. F. Burnell, A. M. Elliott, C. S. Elsey, C. E. A. Glossop, M. J. Houlton, R. A. Lloyd, F. D. McGregor, I. M. L. Manners, G. A. Payne, A. M. Smith, M. I. Wigham.

Guy's Institution.—M. A. Briggs, J. Crerar, E. A. Dibblin, H. M. Edmonds, E. K. Maile, F. V. E. Munson, A. Oliver.

Greenwich Union Infirmary.—K. Fern.

City of London Lying In Hospital.—M. D. Palmer.

New Hospital for Women.—A. S. Parker, H. E. A. Tottenham.

Lambeth Infirmary.—C. S. Selwood.

Kensington Union Infirmary.—A. E. Vickery.

"Regions Beyond" *Missionary Union.*—W. F. Ingram, M. A. Lloyd, C. E. Pracy.

Shoreditch Union Infirmary.—Nellie Blackburn, H. J. Nolan, D. E. Trinder.

Maternity Charity, Plaistow.—Alice B. Barter, E. Besgrove, A. O. Blacklocks, E. M. Brewin, R. Bullock, E. E. Dixon, C. Evans, M. J. Giddings, H. E. Grahame, M. Gray, M. A. Greir, L. B. Gumbrell, M. H. H. Hill, E. Kneebone, A. Macqueen, A. M. Meagrow, M. Meredith, M. R. Page, E. Pick, M. Pope, M. A. Smith, L. Taylor, C. Turnbull, E. E. Welch.

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