

white and green; they are thoroughly cleaned and fumigated after every sixteen deliveries.

The district trained pupils work under the direction of the district midwives, six in number, who are supervised by the Resident Medical Officer. They come to the Hospital for the Physician's lectures, and may either attend a course given by Mrs. Messenger or that given at the Hospital. The out-patient department is large, nine hundred and seventy-nine patients were attended last year. In spite of the new floor added in 1906, which includes cubicles, a large ward, an isolation ward, bathrooms, etc., the rapid extension of the work makes more accommodation necessary; the Baths adjoining the hospital have been put in thorough repair, and will shortly be opened as an annex under the name of Owen House. It is hoped later to build a nurses' home on the site, and convert the present cubicles into new wards.

The Rural Midwives' Association.

As we go to press Princess Christian is announced to present the "Good Service" Certificates to Midwives trained by the Rural Midwives' Association, at 66, Ennismore Gardens, by kind permission of the Hon. Mrs. Gretton.

The chair is to be taken by Dr. Champneys, the Chairman of the Central Midwives' Board, who will make a short opening speech, and a report will be presented by Mrs. Heywood Johnstone, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Association.

The following is a full list of the certificates awarded:—

PAROCHMENT CERTIFICATES.—A. E. Allen, E. J. Atkinson, C. S. J. Benson, R. Binfeld, E. A. Carr, G. Christensen, L. A. Clough, E. Etherton, M. A. Faulkner, M. Gilbert, A. Hutchinson, M. J. Inkpen, D. Kiddle, S. J. Pelborough, E. M. Porter, A. Pratt, A. S. Quinton, E. E. Raybould, E. Roberts, L. Russ, S. Strain, M. A. Thomas, E. Thomas, N. L. Watkins.

PRELIMINARY CERTIFICATES (Second Year).—T. Attwood, S. Burton, R. V. Chamberlain, M. Dolling, F. Dunstall, M. E. Edwards, S. Giles, M. E. Goulding, M. Hart, M. Hickmott, F. Hollingsworth, E. Howes, A. M. Hunt, J. A. Kay, L. Maskell, G. E. Moss, — Neal, M. Niland, A. E. Parker, I. J. Pike, E. Lane, R. Line, B. Wragg.

PRELIMINARY CERTIFICATES (First Year).—L. E. Bartholomew, M. Blades, M. Brady, S. Cliff, K. Cooper, E. E. Cryer, J. Edwards, M. E. Geinson, L. M. Grayson, — High, M. Johnson, E. Jones, E. Lake, J. Mitchell, L. G. Moakes, E. J. Morgan, J. E. Munn, A. Musto, E. Powell, A. Samworth, E. A. Sanger, H. Sunter, A. Ward.

An article on "The Occasional Necessity of Drainage of the Uterus in Puerperal Infection," by Dr. A. A. Warden, Physician to the Hertford British Hospital, Paris, which is of considerable interest to midwives, is published in the *Lancet* of the 16th inst.

The Women's Total Abstinence Society.

At a public conference convened by the Women's Total Abstinence League at Chelmsford, Mrs. T. N. Kelynack, M.B., Ch.B., read a paper on "The Action of Alcohol on Women and Children," in the course of which she said they had still much to learn regarding it. They were beginning to realise that the child was to be respected and dealt with as a sacred trust. They also recognised that woman should be honoured, for to her was given the privilege of a high responsibility. There was no greater guarantee for the future than the great attention which was now being given to matters appertaining to child life. Anything which would in any way encourage or assist or further the study of the child, by which they could secure the well-being of the child in its home, or school, or in its relationship to national life, demanded the attention of every Christian man and woman. She asked them to consider not only alcohol itself, but the alcoholic environment. Of course, it was possible to look upon their subject from various standpoints, but she (the speaker) proposed dealing with it from its scientific aspects. An alcoholic mother was a serious calamity to a child. The child when born was surrounded by all those stultifying influences—the miserable home, insufficient food, ignorance, neglect, carelessness, and cruelty. One of the most striking evidences of the decline of motherhood was the loss of power to nourish their own offspring, as intended by nature. By direst poverty the mother was also unable to get the baby artificial foods, and there was a grave mortality among the infants. Among many respectable-working women the ancient belief that wines, malt liquors, and other alcoholic drinks were helpful and necessary before and after the birth of a child still existed. The infant mortality rate was so high that it was estimated that were it to continue at the same figure for forty-two weeks every infant born alive would have succumbed in that period. Home was the true kingdom, where each woman ruled with grace and power, but it was the deplorable condition of home life that had driven many men and an increasing number of women to the public-house. The result of that was the throwing of children upon the streets.

The Midwives' Defence Association, 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, is circularising practising midwives, and drawing their attention to the advantage of belonging to such an Association.

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