

The Midwife.

Somerset County Council's Lectures to Midwives.

In connection with the above, three elementary lectures have lately been given in Taunton, at the "Emergency Nursing Home," kindly lent by the Hon. Mrs. Stanley, by Miss du Sautoy Inspector of Midwives for the County. At the first lecture she dwelt on the importance of extreme cleanliness both with regard to the midwife's house, person, and appliances, and the care to be taken in preparation of the patient, bed, room, etc. The value of an interview with the prospective mother, at which advice should be given as to care of breasts, diet, regular habits, etc.

At the second, the care of the infant, its proper food and clothing, a large doll being used to demonstrate dressing and undressing.

The third, a recapitulation of the two former laying special stress on hygiene as it affects both mother and child, and a little homely advice on simple articles of diet.

At the first lecture, Dr. Meredith, Chairman of the Midwives' Act Committee, very kindly attended and spoke shortly of the great importance of the Midwives' work and her attention to small details. Tea was provided after each lecture; friends of Miss du Sautoy kindly contributing cakes, flowers, etc.

It is rather difficult to find a good centre at which a sufficient number can be collected to make it worth while to have these lectures. Many of the women live several miles from a railway station, also the expense of the journey is a great consideration.

The only apparent way out of the difficulty is to assist them in the matter of travelling expenses. A notice was sent to each *bonâ-fide* midwife living within a distance covered by a 2s. 6d. single railway fare, stating the dates on which the lectures would be given, and offering to refund full return fare to those attending all three lectures.

To those attending only one or two, half fare was refunded. This may sound a rather unnecessary giving of everything, but it must be remembered that most of these rural midwives are very poor, living in isolated places, and thus find it a considerable expense in getting to and from their nearest station. Also the majority of them are advanced in years, needing some inducement to arouse their interest.

The Central Midwives' Board.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, July 23rd. Dr. Champneys presided.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter was received from the Clerk of the Council as to the proposed deputation on the subject of medical fees.

A letter was also received from the Clerk of the Essex County Council, enclosing a resolution from that Council as to the provision of midwives in rural districts, and one from Mrs. Moorhouse, Secretary of the Manchester Branch of the National Union of Women Workers, enclosing a copy of a resolution proposed by Miss M. Ashton, and passed by the Branch urging the Board to memorialise the Local Government Board with the object of obtaining Government recognition and subsidy of midwives on the same lines as medical officers. Both letters were referred to the Standing Committee.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the British Medical Association, stating that on the recommendation of the Science Committee a Committee had been formed to investigate and report on the subject of Ophthalmia Neonatorum. The Chairman of the Science Committee, with some of the members, would form the Committee, together with representatives of various societies such as the Obstetrical and Gynæcological Sections of the Royal Society of Medicine and the Society for the study of diseases in children. The co-operation of the Central Midwives' Board by the appointment of a delegate was invited. It was agreed that such a representative, if appointed, could not commit the Board in any way, and on that understanding it was agreed that the Chairman be asked to arrange for the attendance of a member.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

In reply to a letter enquiring as to the interpretation of the words "personally delivering" in Rule C.I. (1), the Board laid down that in order to count a case as one of the twenty necessary to render her eligible to enter for the Board's examination, the pupil must make both abdominal and vaginal examinations, and personally deliver the head and body of the child, and the placenta and membranes. This excludes all cases known as B.B.A. (born before arrival), and also those too far advanced to admit of the necessary examinations being made. It also forbids the case being counted to more than one person. The fact that medical assistance becomes necessary to apply forceps or otherwise assist delivery does not prevent the case being counted to the pupil.

A letter was received from the Town Clerk of Rotherham as to the circumstances under which

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