

Representation of Midwives on the Midwives' Act Committee.

The National Association of Midwives (9, Albert Square, Manchester), have forwarded the following resolution to the Lord President of the Council:—

"That this meeting of the National Association of Midwives desires to call the attention of the President of the Council to the omission from the Departmental Committee—now inquiring into the workings of the Midwives' Act—of any direct representative of the midwives of the country. Further, that in view of the fact that it is now an established custom in appointing departmental committees of this kind to add at least one representative of those whose calling is to be made the subject of consideration, this Association respectfully urges that a direct representative of the midwives shall be added to the Committee."

We hope that this resolution, following that sent up from the Central Midwives' Board at the instance of Mr. Parker Young, and the action taken by Miss J. Wilson in resigning her seat as the nominee of the Privy Council on that Board as a protest, may have the effect of bringing to the notice of the Lord President the strong feeling existing that the Committee should include at least one certified midwife. We conclude that the National Association of Midwives intend to ask that a midwife shall be nominated by the Lord President, not that she shall be elected by the certified midwives on the Roll, which the words "direct representative" imply.

Northumberland and Durham Midwives' Association.

The objects of the Association are:—(1) To form a bond amongst midwives. (2) To give opportunities for the discussion of professional questions, for mutual help and encouragement.

There are two classes of members:—(1) Ordinary Members.—Midwives who are on the Roll of the Central Midwives' Board. (2) Associate Members.—Comprising the President, Vice-Presidents, and other persons interested in the work, who must be proposed and elected at a general meeting of members.

The annual subscription to the Association of a member in town is 2s. 6d.; in the country, 1s. 6d. Town members have the use of the club room weekly, and have monthly meetings and addresses. The annual subscription of an associate is 5s.

The Hon. Secretary, as we recently reported, is Miss Renaud, Health Department, Town Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Newcastle-on-Tyne has now its Mothers and Babies' Welcome Society, at 20, Wharnclyffe Street, of which Lady Owen is President. The chief object of the Society is the saving of infant life by the feeding and instruction of mothers. Dinners are provided for expectant and nursing mothers at 1d. per meal, and advice is given on the proper feeding of infants.

The Royal Maternity Charity of London.

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Maternity Charity of London was held last Tuesday, at 28, Finsbury Square, E.C., the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. C. Barham, C.C., presiding.

A feature of the Annual Report which was presented, was the Statistical Report compiled by the Secretary, Major G. Lionel B. Killick. There has only been one maternal death during the year, that of a patient suffering from pneumonia, out of 2,383 patients delivered.

Especially interesting was the report of the work done by the Training School.

The first lecturer to the School was Dr. David Daniel Davis, appointed in 1816, who held office till 1842, and was succeeded by his son, Dr. John Hall Davis, who held office till 1882. He was followed by Dr. Robert Fancourt Barnes, who occupied the position till 1902, when he resigned. The vacancy thus caused was not filled until Dr. St. Aubyn Farrer was appointed in 1905. Dr. St. Aubyn Farrer brought a clientèle of pupils to the charity, which has since been augmented.

As a result of the re-organisation of the School on a residential basis—the pupils being accommodated in the houses of selected Staff Midwives—forty-four pupils have in the last four years been successful in gaining the certificate of the Central Midwives' Board. From a financial point of view, in the past 3½ years £225 7s. have been paid into the funds of the Charity as clear profits.

Ten "letters" per midwifery pupil, and five per nursing pupil, are given to the Staff Midwife to assist towards the necessary cases required in training the pupil, and in this way the School has been the means of assisting 692 more patients than would in the ordinary course have been attended. These "letters" are paid for by the pupils, the cost being embodied in their fees.

The report was adopted on the motion of Dr. Septimus Sunderland, seconded by Miss L. Stewart, a midwife and Governor, and the Chairman remarked that he had occupied that position for 25 years, but had never heard a report more ably drawn. He hoped that the "dear old Charity," which was one of the oldest in London, would long pursue its beneficent work.

The Committee having been re-elected, with one addition—Mr. E. E. Evison—Rule 6, which provides that any minister realising a collection of 10 guineas shall be a Life Governor of the Charity, was altered to provide that he should be a Governor "so long as he shall hold the same preferment."

A cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman and Committee was passed, and the Chairman was warmly supported by the meeting, when he tendered its warmest and sincerest thanks to Major Killick for his work on behalf of the Charity.

Major Killick, replying, said that he had the kindest of committees, and he could not conceive a more charming body of ladies to work with than the nurses. There were many hidden cases of charity on their part which were never heard of through the newspapers.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)