

midwifery certificate is also essential for Inspectors, County Superintendents, and Assistant County Superintendents." From which there are indications that the thoroughly trained nurse of the future will be trained in midwifery, and that the midwife will be a trained nurse.

Midwives' Act Committee.

The tenth meeting of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Lord President of the Council to consider the working of the Midwives Act, was held at the Privy Council Office on Wednesday in last week, Mr. Almeric W. FitzRoy, the Clerk of the Council, presiding.

The following witnesses attended and gave evidence:—Miss K. Stephenson, Hon. Secretary of the Wiltshire County Nursing Association; Miss Lilian Trendell, Certified Midwife, lately Inspector of Midwives for the County Council and County Superintendent of the County Nursing Association in Herefordshire; Mrs. Elizabeth Miles, Certified Midwife, Hertford; Miss Alice Gregory, Certified Midwife, Hon. Secretary and District Superintendent of the Home for Mothers and Babies and Training School for District Midwives, Woolwich, Vice-Chairman of the London County Council Midwives Act Committee; Mrs. Messenger, Certified Midwife, Matron of the St. Margaret's Nursing Home, 30, Surrey Square, S.E.

The Central Midwives' Board.

The next examination of the Central Midwives' Board will be held on June 9th, in London, at the Examination Hall, Victoria Embankment, W.C., and in the provinces at the University, Birmingham; University College, Bristol; Victoria University, Manchester; and the University of Durham College of Medicine, Newcastle-on-Tyne. The Oral Examination follows a few days later.

The Practice of Midwifery.

An interesting fact brought out by the question put by the Central Midwives' Board to candidates for its examination, respecting their subsequent intention to practice, is that many have no such intention, but are trained nurses who regard the certificate of the Board as an additional qualification, and are willing to submit themselves to an examination, and to pay for a certificate of efficiency when issued under State authority.

L.C.C. Classes for Midwives and Maternity Nurses.

Midwives and Maternity Nurses who desire further instruction should note that classes under the authority of the Education Department of the London County Council are now being held weekly. Those for midwives, whose names are on the Roll of the Central Midwives' Board, are delivered from 7 to 9 p.m. at the L.C.C. Schools in Bell Street, Edgware Road, W., lecturer, Dr. A. B. Calder; on Thursday; in Burrage Grove, Plumstead, lecturer, Dr. Mary E. Roake, on Thursday; in South Lambeth Road, lecturer, Dr. A. B. Calder, on Friday; and from 6.45 to 8.45 p.m. in Ecclesbourne Road, Islington, by Dr. C. St. Aubyn Farrer, on Tuesday. The fee for the session terminating in July is 1s. Application for admission to a class should be made to the Assistant at the school. A large number of classes, the full list of which can be obtained from the Education Office, L.C.C., Victoria Embankment, are also arranged for maternity nurses.

The British Lying-in Hospital.

The Medical Report of the British Lying-in Hospital, Endell Street, W.C., is especially interesting to midwives, as it gives details of cases of special interest. Caesarian section was performed in one case. The patient was under the anaesthetic for 40 minutes, the child being delivered ten minutes after the first incision. The patient made a satisfactory and uneventful recovery. The infant, three weeks and five days after the operation, had gained 1 lb. and 2 oz.

This method of inducing anaesthesia during parturition by scopolamine morphia anaesthesia has been attempted on twenty-three patients. Of these sixteen were successful, five were not successful, and did not yield to the treatment; of the remaining two one must be classed as "doubtful," and in the case of the other there was insufficient time for the hyoscine to take effect. There were no unpleasant after-effects, but to the contrary the post-partum condition left little to be desired. All the children lived, and in no case was asphyxia neonatorum a cause for grave anxiety.

The Weight of Infants at Birth.

Most authorities agree that on an average boys are heavier than girls at birth, and that their heads are slightly larger. This is confirmed by recent statistics at York Road Hospital, S.E. In the year 1907 the average weight of 150 consecutive, full-term boys was 7 lb. 7 $\frac{1}{10}$ oz. (3,365 grammes), and that of 150 full-term girls 7 lb. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. (3,265 grammes).

The size of the head was estimated by the combined sub-occipito bregmatic and occipito frontal circumferences, any unusually large caput disqualifying the baby for statistical purposes. The boys had the advantage here of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (1 centimetre), their average being 25 $\frac{1}{10}$ inches (64 $\frac{1}{2}$ centimetres), and the girls 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches (64 $\frac{1}{2}$ centimetres).

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)