

with the home because the Matron had told her *there were quite enough midwives.*

Dr. McCall closed the meeting in a most able speech and vote of thanks to Lady George Hamilton, who in her turn wished "Miss Gregory's fad" every success, after which a most hospitable tea was served.

E. R. WORTABET.

The Rural Midwives' Association

Mr. Almeric FitzRoy, C.V.O., Clerk to the Privy Council, and Chairman of the Departmental Committee on the Midwives Act, presided at the sixth annual meeting of the Rural Midwives' Association, held at 3, Grosvenor Place, on Tuesday last, by the kind permission of Lady Esther Smith, at which Her Royal Highness Princess Alexander of Teck was present.

The Chairman said that the work of the Association touched a large problem, but he did not think there was any difficulty which could not be met by effective organisation. He laid emphasis on two points—the wisdom of combining district nursing with midwifery, and the importance of harmonious co-operation with the medical profession. In connection with the first point, he read an extract from THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which, he said, spoke with great good sense on the question, stating that the most practical means of providing competent assistance for the lying-in woman in country districts would probably be found to be through the thoroughly trained district nurse who is also a certified midwife, who will understand and practise asepsis. He also read a quotation from a letter in the *British Medical Journal*, detailing the work undertaken by a nurse in a rural district, supported under a provident system, and managed by a committee of ladies, and presided over by a lady in county society. Besides doing midwifery, she posed as an electrical specialist, a vibrator formed a valuable asset, chronic rheumatism being constantly "cured." She also specialised as a masseuse, treating dropsy by her "wonderful manipulations." Mr. FitzRoy said he had asked Dr. Champneys to put his bloodhounds on this lady's track, and if he ran her to earth her career was likely to be closed.

Mrs. Charles Hobhouse, Chairman of Committee, who moved the adoption of the report, drew attention to two points—the acceptance by Mrs. Heywood Johnstone of the office of President of the Association, and the fact that the demand for midwives only had decreased in rural districts, but the demand for those with training in general nursing also had increased enormously. The Committee had, therefore, placed many of their candidates in general hospitals for a year's training, in addition to their midwifery qualification. They aimed at supplying women ready and competent to work either as visiting village nurses or as cottage resident nurses on the Holt-Ockley system.

Dr. Nimmo Walker spoke of the unnecessary havoc wrought, from want of skilled attention, by ophthalmia neonatorum, which did not destroy lives but wrecked them. He hoped that, with the help of skilled midwives, the reproach would be removed that it is our custom to make provision

for the care of the blind rather than to prevent blindness.

Mr. Alban Doran spoke of the loss the Association had sustained by the death of Dr. Per Boulton.

Mr. Chapman moved the election of the Executive Committee, and Dr. Bostock Hill, M.O.F. Warwickshire, who seconded, spoke of the importance of the work done by the trained midwives. In Warwickshire he knew of several trained midwives who were unable to make a living, and one who had become chargeable to the Poor Law because the bulk of the work was going to the untrained.

Parchment certificates for three years' go service were then presented by Princess Alexander of Teck to those midwives who were present to receive them. The complete list is as follows:—

Tamar Attwood, Sarah Burton, Margaret Dilling, Fanny Dunstall, Fanny Edwards, Sarah Giles, Martha Gimson, Margaret Hart, Fanny Hollingsworth, Elizabeth Howes, Ethel Lal Elizabeth Lane, Rosa Line, Elvira Jane Morga Grace Elizabeth Norrison, Florence Mary Ne Maude Niland, Annie Parker, Ida Jane Pils Emma Powell, Ellen Amelia Sanger, Hannah Sunter.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Princess, the Chairman, and Lady Esther Smith.

The Essex County Midwifery and Cottage Nursing Association.

We are glad to observe that at the recent annual meeting of the Essex County Nursing Association Lady Rayleigh, Vice-President, moved, and Dr. Thresh seconded, "That the title of the Association be altered to 'The Essex County Midwifery and Cottage Nursing Association.'" The scope of training and similar associations is to provide for attendance on poor women in their confinements, and training is directed to this end, almost every member of the staff being a certified midwife, while the amount of training given to them in nursing qualifies them as useful sick-room helpers. It is right, therefore, that their status as midwives should be emphasised in the title of the Association.

Parish Nurses and Midwives' Etc

A correspondence on the above subject is now going on in the *Church Times*, in which Dr. Milligan, of Leckhampton, who quotes some remarks of this journal on the subject, showing that the "nurses" connected with rural nursing associations are very frequently "midwives having a very elementary smattering of nursing," points out that it has been laid down decisively that for a medical man to employ or assist an unqualified person is unprofessional conduct. If, therefore, the midwives are not content to confine themselves to their legitimate sphere of duty he considers, common with another medical man, that "they might refuse to assist these women," and that with a due regard to their character for "unselfish devotion to the cause of suffering humanity

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