

The Midwife.

The East End Mothers' Lying-in Home.

The Annual Meeting of the East End Mothers' Lying-in Home, 396, Commercial Road, E., was held at the Home on Wednesday, when the Annual Report and Audited Accounts were presented.

Mr. M. Cursham Corner, M. and L.S.A., Hon. Visiting Medical Officer and Lecturer, in presenting the Medical Report, stated that many serious cases were admitted, including hæmorrhages before delivery, and eclampsia, and 14 of the district cases requiring operative treatment were removed into the Home. Many of the poor mothers bore traces of starvation, and had to be provided with food and firing some time before their confinement, for the distress has been acute. Mr. Corner feels confident that the health of many of the mothers was re-established by the timely aid thus provided. He added, "the risks of nursing these many cases in their own homes caused our Staff great anxiety. This leads up to the subject of providing help for mothers, for we are gradually coming to recognise that if we are to reduce our infantile mortality, we must have regard to the ante-natal period of infant life.

"1908 has been not inaptly called the Children's Year. Its influence may bring about better parental conditions, as well as improved surroundings, both before and after birth. The commonest causes of infantile mortality are poverty, ignorance, and neglect, and the predominating one in the East End is poverty."

The Resident Lady Superintendent, Miss Margaret Anderson, reports that in 1908 the total number of cases treated amounted to 1,206, which is 232 in excess of the highest record previously attained. 498 patients have been nursed in the Home, and the out-patients numbered 708. Many of the cases were critical and almost every kind of obstetrical complication has been met with, with the exception of sepsis, but all the cases have made good recoveries. This speaks volumes for the care and skill of Miss Anderson and her staff.

Seven monthly nurses and fifty-two midwives have received instruction in the Training School, and the revenue from this source has been £1,045 15s. The new Nurses' Home is all that can be desired, and Miss Anderson says that its simple comforts are highly appreciated, and are likely to attract pupils to the Training School, and consequently to maintain

the present revenue from this source. The weekly receptions for former patients and the supervision of their babies have outgrown the accommodation of the Home, and many mothers who desire to attend have to be sent away. It is hoped that when a Mothers' Welcome for the Stepney poor is established in a building near the Home that the weekly receptions will be held there.

After the short business meeting the Committee and Miss Anderson entertained the friends of the charity at a very pleasant "At Home."

A League for Certified Midwives.

A Meeting to inaugurate the Certified Midwives' Total Abstinence League will be held at the London Temperance Hospital, Hampstead Road, N.W., on Friday, April 16th, at 7 p.m., in the new Out-patients' Hall. The Meeting will be addressed by Dr. Collie, Dr. Annie McCall, the Hon. Mrs. Eliot Yorke, and others. There is no doubt that midwives can do much to promote temperance, both by practice and precept, amongst a class who too often take stimulants at a time when they are far better without them, because their use has been urged by unwise and ignorant midwives. We wish the new League every success in its endeavour to combat this evil.

The wards at the London Temperance Hospital will be on view from 6 to 7 p.m. before the meeting.

The Midwives' Act Committee.

The seventh 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, March 17th. The following witnesses attended and gave evidence: Dr. E. W. Hope, Medical Officer of Health, Liverpool; Mr. G. H. Fosbrooke, Medical Officer of Health, Worcestershire; Mr. J. R. Kaye, Medical Officer of Health, West Riding, Yorkshire.

Disciplinary Cases.

At a special meeting of the Central Midwives Board on Tuesday, March 23rd, charges alleged against 22 certified midwives were heard with the following results:—

Struck off the Roll.—P. Botfield 7584, E. M. Bothwell 21320, S. Burrow 8338, A. Gordon 8408, D. Hudson 12776, R. Kitching 4993, J. Lawrence 11216, S. J. Lonsdale 5781, S. A. Marsh 21157, M. A. Quinton 13308, A. M. Richardson 12830, E. Townsend 6731, H. Tovey 8437, J. Walters 1017, F. M. Wills 11305, M. J. Blackler 16742. *Severely Censured.*—M. Cook 18269, E. May 7133. *Censured.*—M. E. Stevenson 6006. *Cautioned.*—M. Aldred 3201, A. M. Bolton 9098, F. Curtis 4309.

previous page

next page