

A Splendid Record.

At an inquest on an infant at Yarmouth recently, Mrs. M. Sutton, a midwife, asked by the Coroner if she had had any experience, said that she had attended at the birth of 9,037 children in 55 years. She began, she said, when she was 20, and had never lost a single case. In one year she attended 500 cases, and had entered every one in a book. The Coroner said this was a "record" in his experience, and he heartily congratulated the witness.

Obstetrics in District Work.

The opinion seems to be gaining ground in this country that maternity and midwifery nursing can usefully and safely be combined with district nursing work, provided that the precautions now possible by the observance of modern methods of asepsis are faithfully carried out. It is interesting to observe, therefore, that in a paper presented to the Annual Convention of the Nurses' Associated Alumnae of the United States this year Miss Mary E. Lent, R.N., Superintendent, Instructive Visiting Nurse Association of Baltimore, expresses the contrary opinion, and says, "As for obstetrics, unless there is a special nurse for such work it is not possible for the district nurse to attend cases during confinement. It means that her other patients would have to be neglected, which should not be done." Probably, in a busy district in a large town this is the case, but in rural districts, where a nurse does not work at such high pressure, it may be possible to combine the two. But midwifery work is so urgent when the call comes, that other work must always give place to it, and where there are acute cases of illness this is not easy to arrange.

Maternity Work in Carlisle.

Mrs. Scott-Steele, Hon. Secretary of the Carlisle District Nursing Association, is appealing for the support of the public in the developments which are taking place in its work. The Committee have added to their staff a nurse who will attend confinement cases with a doctor, and in cases of poverty will act as a midwife. They are also amalgamating with the Carlisle Maternity Association, and taking over its work as well as the services of Nurse Jamieson, who has worked as a midwife in connection with it for the past fourteen years. The mortality rate amongst infants in Carlisle is 8 per 1,000 higher than the average throughout England and Wales, and it is hoped that the effort now being made to save the lives of these infants and the health of their mothers will receive public support. The Committee are appealing at present for £70 to meet the cost of removing to a larger home and of the extra furnishing made necessary by the increase of staff. Contributions should be sent to Miss Halton, Hon. Treasurer, District Nurses' Home, 73, Warwick Road, Carlisle.

The National Maternity Hospital—Dublin.

No class of hospital is doing better or more necessary work, at a less cost, than the maternity hospitals of the United Kingdom. The one thing that is needed to maintain and extend their work is more financial support, for of this our maternity charities scarcely seem to receive their fair share, which is a matter for great regret. They certainly do incalculable good to the large number of in- and out-patients attended in the course of the year, raising the standard of the national health, so that mothers return to their work free from the chronic invalidism which in former days was the unfortunate lot of many, as a result of septic infection, and with the baby healthy, happy, and vigorous, instead of blind for life, as too often happened as the result of ignorant neglect of the eyes of the new-born. Again, these hospitals benefit not only patients actually receiving treatment, but have a much wider influence as centres of education for students and midwives, for all of which reasons they are entitled to generous support. The National Maternity Hospital, Dublin, in common with others, is suffering from lack of financial support, and we hope that the sermon on its behalf preached in the Church of St. Andrew, Dublin, on Sunday afternoon, by the Rev. Dr. M. A. Keane, O.P., will result in a substantial increase in the interest taken in and the funds subscribed to this excellent institution. Subscriptions will be thankfully acknowledged by Miss Gargan, Secretary, National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street, Dublin, or by the Lady Superintendent, and will be put to a good use.

The National Association of Midwives.

An interesting function took place on Saturday, September 25th, in connection with the National Association of Midwives, Manchester, when Mrs. Lawson, the President, on behalf of the Association, proposed a public vote of thanks to Mr. J. R. Clynes, M.P., for the services rendered by him to working men and women in general, and explained that midwives were especially indebted to him, because, at the request of the members of the National Association of Midwives, he had come forward and asked a question on their behalf in the House of Commons in relation to the Departmental Committee appointed by the Lord President of the Council to inquire into the working of the Midwives' Act. The resolution was seconded by Mrs. Malcolm, Corresponding Secretary of the Association, and heartily carried.

Mrs. Shelmerdine, a much respected member of the Association, also presented a beautiful bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Clynes, which was gracefully accepted and acknowledged in most feeling terms. The Association also received with much satisfaction the assurance that their interests would always when possible be furthered by Mr. Clynes.

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