

Queen's Nurses Preferred.

We are glad to see that the Burgess Hill District Nursing and Midwifery Association appreciates its "two excellent Queen's Nurses," and that Miss Blakesley's proposition to insert the word "preferably" in a clause in Rule 1, so as to read: "And the District Nurse maintained by the Association shall be preferably a Queen's Nurse," was carried. Warm praise was given at the annual meeting of the Association to the present Queen's Nurses for their admirable work.

Bart.'s Maternity Wards.

We learn that it is proposed to organise courses of instruction for nurses at St. Bartholomew's Hospital now that "Elizabeth" is to be a maternity ward, by which they can be prepared for the examination of the Central Midwives' Board. This means, we presume, that some of their cases will be taken in the district surrounding the hospital, a field of experience denied to the late Matron for training purposes.

Back to Back Houses.

The necessity of fresh air in infancy and childhood is demonstrated by a report published by the Local Government Board, drawn up by Dr. Darra Mair, one of its medical inspectors. The report deals with the average death-rate from all causes in back-to-back houses in thirteen industrial towns in the West Riding of Yorkshire as compared with that in through houses. In the back-to-back houses the mortality was 15 per cent. greater than in the through houses, and when they were built in continuous rows it was over 20 per cent. greater. The causes of this excess are stated to be diseases of the chest and other diseases associated with the defective growth and development of children.

The Central Midwives' Board.

A special meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, S.W., on Sept. 30, to receive and deal with the report of the Standing Committee held on the same afternoon, so far as it related to applications under Rule B2. This was necessary because the extension by the Privy Council of the time during which the names of midwives who have not passed the examination of the Board could be placed on the Midwives' Roll at the discretion of the Board terminated on the last day of September. It will be remembered that through no fault of their own some midwives failed to secure admission to the Roll before the expiration of the term of grace originally fixed, and in the case of others it was felt that hardship had sometimes been inflicted. The Privy Council therefore empowered the Central Midwives' Board to add further names for a limited period.

At Friday's meeting, on the recommendation of the Standing Committee, over 300 names were

added to the Roll. Henceforth, presumably, only midwives who have fulfilled the conditions laid down by the Central Midwives' Board, and who have passed its examination, will be eligible for admission.

Leeds Maternity Hospital.

The Committee of the Leeds Maternity Hospital the motto of which is "The Union of those who Love in the Service of those who Need," are able to give a most encouraging report of the work achieved. The hospital was first opened in December, 1905, and the present hospital in May last, when the opening ceremony was performed by Mrs. Kendal, who afterwards presented two pictures of Queen Mary and the Queen Mother to the institution, and the building was dedicated by the Bishop of Ripon.

The residence and grounds were presented to the Committee by Mr. J. Ellershaw Pepper, and the former has been mainly adapted for the administrative work. The new part consists of an extension of four storeys 100 feet long and 30 feet wide, and the hospital now contains 33 beds for patients and 27 for the nursing and domestic staffs. The Matron of the new hospital is Miss Edwards, from the Maternity Hospital, Liverpool, and the Assistant Matron, Miss Moore, from the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin.

The following figures show conclusively the rapid growth of the work of the institution. The deliveries for the last three years, ending in June, have been as follows:—*In the hospital*: 1908, 144, 1909, 239; 1910, 356. *On the district*: 1908, 35; 1909, 140; 1910, 239. There has only been one maternal death, that of a patient suffering from eclampsia, who was practically moribund on admission. The death rate is thus less than 0.2 per cent. Of the babies ten have died, most of this number only surviving their birth by a few hours. Many of the cases sent in by medical practitioners required operative measures, and in one instance Caesarian section was performed, both mother and child doing well.

With regard to the training school for midwives, always an important department of the work of a maternity hospital, seventeen pupils were trained during the past year. Of these sixteen presented themselves for the examination of the Central Midwives' Board, and fifteen were successful in obtaining its certificate. Ten pupils trained as maternity nurses and received the certificate of the hospital. Students from Leeds and other medical schools have also attended the hospital for clinical instruction under the medical officers.

Everything points to still further progress in the future. Each month the number of applications for admission to the hospital, or for attendance on the district increase, medical practitioners are increasingly using the hospital for abnormal cases, and larger numbers of pupils are applying for training. The interest of the working classes in the hospital is shown by the support given by the Workpeople's Hospital Committee, which during the past year gave £250 to the Building Fund, and £125 to the up-keep of the hospital.

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