

### City of London Lying-in Hospital.

It was a happy thought to invite Dr. Luke Paget, the Bishop of Stepney, and the son of the famous Sir James Paget, to dedicate on the Festival of "Luke, the Beloved Physician," the new Chapel of the Lying-in Hospital, City Road, E.C. Certainly the hospital management are to be congratulated on their little place of worship. Its interior is painted and stencilled with delicate colours and ecclesiastical designs; the marble font, where we were informed some 700 baptisms are administered in the year, was presented by the Matron, Staff, and past pupils, and bears an inscription to that effect. Like the altar, it was decorated for the Dedication with choice white flowers. Other gifts were from anonymous donors. Over the entrance a brass tablet bears the following inscription: "To the glory of God, and in memory of Rebecca Ivey, and Eliza Owthwaite, this Chapel was completed August, 1910, by their respective husbands." (A Governor and the Secretary of the Hospital.)

The service opened with a processional hymn, and the coloured hoods of the Bishop, clergy, and medical staff made a most effective spectacle.

After the dedication the Bishop gave a short and characteristic address. His remarks showed a wide insight into, and sympathy with hospital life. He referred to the happiness he had experienced in acting as Chaplain, for some time, to the "New Hospital for Women." He asked his hearers to consider, if they knew anything of the enormous strain, weariness, and incessant toil of a nurse's life, what a privilege their little Chapel would be to them, where they could have, if only five minutes, quiet, and where they could simply lay their weariness down.

In the very attractive wards, which many present visited after the service, the mothers in varying stages of convalescence were proudly exhibiting their infants, the centre of attraction being the youngest of the family, who was only a few hours old.

The bathrooms arranged for the bathing of eight infants at one time, are quite all that can be desired, and the wisdom of having two labour wards used alternately for a fortnight at a time, and then closed for cleaning, is much to be commended. This same arrangement also applies to the general wards. We were interested also to see the private wards, for which a charge of £3 3s. a week is made, and we feel sure that they must meet a very real need, and ought to be more widely known.

### THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

The next examination of the Central Midwives' Board will be held on October 24th in London, at the Examination Hall, Victoria Embankment, W.C.; in Birmingham, Leeds, and Manchester at their respective Universities; and at Newcastle-on-Tyne at the University of Durham College of Medicine.

### THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MIDWIVES.

Under the auspices of the National Association of Midwives, 9, Albert Square, Manchester, a branch was formed at Rotherham on October 6th. The chair was taken by Councillor Caine. Vice-Chairman of the Rotherham Supervising Midwives' Committee. Mrs. Lawson (President of the above Association) addressed the meeting, and pointed out the necessity of combination. Mrs. Williamson, Secretary of the Sheffield Branch, also addressed the meeting. The speakers were listened to with interest, and at the close every midwife present joined. The National Association has been doing some strenuous work this last six months. There has not been much time to keep the public posted up with details, but we have held meeting after meeting, and had success all along the line. Within the last three months five new branches have been formed, our membership is increasing, and our friends the enemy are deploring the growth of trades unionism amongst midwives, while we are rejoicing that the midwives are beginning to realise the need of unity, and that the surest way to get help is to help themselves.

E. GILROY, *Secretary.*

### COMMISSIONS TO MIDWIVES.

The correspondent of a medical contemporary states that a certificated midwife recently called upon him to inquire what commission he was prepared to give her for cases to which she called him in, and was quite surprised when he pointed out to her "the enormity of the offence," and said she thought there was nothing wrong in taking commissions.

The medical practitioner acquainted the Medical Officer of Health for his district with the incident, who said he could do nothing without evidence, but promised to notify the certified midwives under his control that it was illegal for them to accept bribes (under the name of commissions) from doctors for work introduced. At the same time he pointed out quite rightly that it was the doctors who were the sinners, and said that he had suspected for some time that the practice had been going on.

There can be no doubt that the practice is a pernicious one, and should be stopped. It is not entirely surprising that midwives who live so near the starvation line should be willing to take a *quid pro quo* for any "patronage" they may bestow, but it is certainly inconsistent with the dignity of the medical profession, as well as unfair to the ordinary medical attendants of patients, to enter into a compact of this nature with midwives, added to which there is the danger lest a midwife should unnecessarily advise a doctor to be called in in order to get the commission, thus placing an unfair financial burden either on the patient or the ratepayers.

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