

# The Midwife.

## The Union of Midwives.

The Union of Midwives, of which Mrs. Robinson, the Founder, is President, and Mrs. Carnegie Williams the Hon. Secretary, the offices of which are at 33, Strand—a most central position—is making satisfactory progress, and during the nine months of its existence has enrolled some 500 members.

Its help extends not only to members who are already certified, but to those who wish to pass the examination of the Central Midwives' Board. Classes are held by a medical man to prepare pupils in their theoretical work, and the committee arrange for these pupils to gain their practical instruction and knowledge under midwives with a large connection. The Union is still in its infancy, but it is a vigorous and healthy infant, and it has many well-wishers who hope for its health, wealth, and happiness.

It is fortunate in its Hon. Officers, and the public spirit of its capable Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Carnegie Williams, in giving her time and valuable services to the Union and attending regularly at the offices to conduct the routine business, deserves the gratitude of all the members.

We hope that the work of consolidation now going on will result in the organisation of a forceful body of midwives, who realise the strength of unity, and whose outlook is not parasitic but self-reliant; who will demand representation of midwives by midwives on their own governing body, who will hold out the right hand of fellowship to all who are working to obtain this elementary act of justice, and who will never be satisfied until the stigma is removed that midwives have not been sufficiently alive to their own interests to insist upon the inclusion on that Board of at least one direct representative.

We advisedly say "insist," because until midwives themselves bring sufficient pressure upon the legislature to obtain the recognition of the principle of direct representation, it is certain that this much needed reform will not be thrust upon them.

The forthcoming general election will afford an excellent opportunity for bringing this important question before the future legislature.

The Goldsmiths' Company have made a grant of £100 to the funds of Queen Charlotte's Hospital.

## An Appeal to Young Mothers.

The Lady Mayoress of Liverpool, Mrs. S. Mason Hutchinson, presided last week at the second annual meeting of the Dispensary for Women and Children and Infant Consultations, at the Town Hall, and in moving the adoption of the report said that the Committee had been able to hand over £440 to the Stanley Hospital to endow a bed, for 15 years, for dispensary patients needing in-patient treatment. In addition, through the generous gift of Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Heyworth of shares bringing in £10, and the sum of £30 paid over, they were able to maintain a second bed for a year, and there were promises of subscriptions to continue its maintenance. The beds had been constantly filled, and many patients were still waiting. The attendances had been 4,020, against 3,527 last year, and 965 against 867 last year. Many of the women who attended the consultations were unable to nourish their infants because of their own semi-starvation, and a daily supply of milk from the Municipal Milk Depot at a nominal rate had proved the greatest benefit to both mothers and babies.

Miss Helen Gladstone spoke of the great need for the work, and hoped the infant consultation branch would largely increase, and the Rev. John Wakeford said it was a fair and laudable ambition for any mother city to see that all its people were well born, well clad, and well taught. The schools achieved the children being well taught, and it was a disgrace to the city that some of its children were not well clothed, and that some were even unshod.

If the mothers were taught the primary lessons of health, much would be done towards securing that the children were well born. He did not know any appeal which should go home more directly to young mothers than that of the Dispensary and Infant Consultations, which was doing such good work. It brought in the magic touch of sisterly sympathy, and they could also appeal to men for support on the grounds of justice and gratitude.

The fourth Annual and Midwifery Conference and Exhibition will be held at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster. The Organising Secretary is Mr. Ernest Schofield, and the offices at 22-24, Great Portland Street, W.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)