

# The Midwife.

## The Midwife in 1910.

An Amending Bill of the Midwives' Act was introduced first by Viscount Wolverhampton, when Lord President of the Council, then withdrawn, and a second Bill introduced by Earl Beauchamp as Lord President. The late Parliament was, however, dissolved before any amending Bill became law, which is not entirely matter for regret as there is a general consensus of opinion that the Bill as introduced needs amendment in several particulars, and especially do associations of midwives desire that provision shall be made in any new Bill for the direct representation of the certified midwives on their governing body.

The Central Midwives' Board has continued its work of examining, enrolling, and maintaining discipline amongst midwives. The large number of midwives (2,683) who entered during the year prior to the last report issued by the Board, of whom 2,219 satisfied the examiners, and were added to the Roll, proves that a large number of women are willing and able to pay substantial sums for this special training and to maintain themselves while receiving it, besides paying the requisite entrance fee to the Central Midwives' Board.

After many years of strenuous work as President of the Midwives' Institute, Miss Jane Wilson has resigned this position, and Miss Amy Hughes, General Superintendent of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, has accepted nomination as her successor, a nomination which will give general satisfaction, as Miss Hughes is a certified midwife and highly qualified nurse.

There has been ample evidence during the year that Midwives are realising the need of organisation, a number of provincial associations are now affiliated to the Incorporated Midwives' Institute, the National Association of Midwives in Manchester, also with affiliated branches, recently demonstrated its value to its members by successfully defending two of their number cited to appear before the Central Midwives' Board, and secured their complete exoneration from the charges against them.

The Union of Midwives established in London during the present year is like the National Association working on trade union lines; Liverpool has also its own Association, and there is further a Certified Midwives' Total Abstinence League, which aims at securing the co-operation of every enrolled midwife.

## The Day Nursery, Whitfield Street, W.

Passing up and down the mean streets of the Metropolis we find here and there houses which are centres of sweetness and light; they may be noted by the flowers which "mark as with a little broken fragment of rainbow, the windows of the workers in whose heart rests the covenant of peace"; they may also be differentiated by the polished panes and snowy curtains, which form an inviting contrast to the surrounding dinginess.

Such a centre is to be found in the Day Nursery at Whitfield Street, Tottenham Court Road, W., recently opened, and which not only opens its doors to the children of the neighbourhood, while their mothers are at work, but is also an educational agency, giving to the mothers in the course of friendly intercourse, lessons in regard to the rearing and training of their children which they willingly absorb.

The Home, which was opened in October last, with Miss Tait, who has received training in the nursing of children, as Matron, is charmingly fresh and dainty, green predominating in the colour scheme throughout.

Every child is bathed each morning on arrival, and put into clean clothes, children up to five years of age are received, and the toddlers' room on the ground floor has been furnished with great consideration for their needs.

On fine and warm days they may be taken out to the small open space at the back of the house, where, with a table and chairs under shelter, they can play happily in such fresh air as the neighbourhood affords.

Above is the nursery for the small babies with its pretty white cots, and vegetable down quilts covered with green sateen. Here also is every convenience for preparing the food for the babies. The milk is not sterilised, but every care is taken that it should be pure, and scrupulous cleanliness is the rule in its preparation. The staff, besides the Matron, consists of a Sister, a paying and a paid probationer, and a cook.

Surely for all their lives the children who spend their early days in the Home must feel its influence for good.

The Home is in close touch with the Whitfield Sisters, who live in the next house, but has an entirely distinct organisation.

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