

The Midwife.

The Midwives Act.

In the House of Commons last week Mr. R. Harcourt (Montrose Burghs, Min.) asked the Prime Minister whether it had been brought to his notice that there was a growing feeling of opposition to certain provisions in the two successive Midwives' Bills introduced by the Government last session, notably the proposed importation, for the first time, of the machinery of the Poor Law, and the proposed annual renewal of the midwives' registration; whether, with a view to securing the much-needed amendment of the Midwives' Act, he would consider the desirability of omitting the provisions to which so much objection was taken; and whether it was intended to introduce any measure on the subject during the present session.

Mr. John Burns (President of the Local Government Board), who replied, said: I understand that the President of the Council has a Bill ready for introduction, from which it is proposed to omit what is known as the annual renewal of midwives' registration. The provisions of the Bill dealing with the payment of medical men called in at the suggestion of midwives were included in the Bill in order to give to the doctors some security for their fees, and I should expect that the omission of the provisions would cause disappointment to the medical profession.

The Examination of the Central Midwives Board.

The following is the examination paper set by the Central Midwives Board for the examination on February 14th, in London and the provinces:—

1. What are the causes of rupture of the membranes before the neck of the womb is fully dilated, and what complications in labour might you expect in such circumstances?

2. State fully how you would endeavour to prevent rupture of the perinæum in a primipara.

3. How would you deal with a case of labour in which the cord is found to be round the neck of the child after the birth of the head?

4. Describe in detail how you would examine the placenta and membranes.

Why is this examination important?

5. A primipara is unable to suckle her baby. Write down in full all the instructions you would think it necessary to give her with regard to feeding the child artificially for the first ten days of its life.

6. Name three antiseptics in common use in midwifery. Give the advantages and disadvantages of each,

(a) for disinfecting the hands,

(b) for douching in special cases,

and state how you would prepare solutions of them.

THE ROYAL MATERNITY CHARITY OF LONDON.

In his Report of the Training School for 1910 the Secretary, Major G. Lionel B. Killick states that nine pupils have passed the C.M.B. Examination during the year. He adds that there has been a marked falling off in the number of pupils during the past year, directly traceable to the fact that the principal General Hospitals, all over the United Kingdom, have inaugurated training schools in midwifery, and also the C.M.B. are yearly adding to the list of practising midwives who are licensed to receive and train pupils.

THE ST PANCRAS SCHOOL FOR MOTHERS

The St. Pancras School for Mothers, which has done such excellent work for the poor in that locality has extended its activities so as to embrace the whole period from the expectancy of the mother to the compulsory school age of the child, and by association and co-operation with the day nursery and the nursery school has now become a comprehensive school of mothercraft and babe training.

THE MATERNITY HOSPITAL, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Lord Armstrong, who presided at the Annual Meeting of the Maternity Hospital, New Bridge Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, in moving the adoption of the report, said that what had been accomplished was evidence of a great and good work, and of the wisdom of those who had stood for the hospital as a hospital. The hospital had more than justified the hopes of those who had organised it some years ago. He trusted that they would not only have an increase of subscribers, but also in the amount of money received.

Unfortunately there was a deficit of £56 on the year's working. It is interesting to note that of the total income for the year of £861, no less a sum than £383 was derived from the fees paid by students and nurses.

A ST VALENTINE'S MARKET.

A "St. Valentine's Market" represents the effort made last week in Leeds to diminish the debt on the Maternity Hospital, which is doing excellent work, but which, unfortunately, is hampered by a debt of £3,000. The Chairman, Mr. A. B. Baines, who presided, and who was supported by the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, Mrs. Currer Briggs and others, said that the Hospital was started a few years ago with a certain amount of opposition, but this had fallen through, because it had been found that such an institution in a great city like Leeds was increasingly necessary. "It is no use," said Mr. Baines, "talking about 'home, sweet home' when many people have not got such homes." In the hospital work was done on the best lines in an economical and beneficent manner.

The market was opened with a graceful speech by the Hon. Mrs. Albert Kitson.

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