

## The Midwife.

### Christmas at the British Lying-in Hospital, Endell Street, W.C.

The receipt of a cheque for £10, graciously sent by her Majesty the Queen to the Secretary of the British Lying-in Hospital, to be expended in any manner that might be thought suitable on behalf of the inmates at Christmas, called forth from all expressions of most respectful and dutiful gratitude, creating a most happy feeling throughout the institution.

The gift was expended in turkey for the patients, a baby Christmas tree for each ward, other decorations, and a pound canister of tea, bearing the portraits of the King and Queen, for each mother (28 in number). The mother was also presented with clothes for her baby. On Dec. 26th there was a Christmas dinner for the nurses, and suitable decorations for the dining-room. Each patient was allowed to invite her husband to a substantial tea, and the nurses their friends to an "At Home" later on.

The servants had their Christmas dinner specially provided, and each was given a small souvenir from the Queen's donation. Ladies and members of the Board of Management visited the Hospital and had tea.

In every case but one, the parents of the five children born in the hospital on Christmas Day desired to have their child christened George or Mary, the exception being that of a mother who wished hers called Alexandra.

### The East End Mothers' Home.

From the West End of London to Commercial Road, E., seems a far cry, and a different world, yet tubes and motor-buses have lessened the distance, that is the time distance, which is what really matters, by half, and if any "up west" are tempted to think that life is not worth living let them spend the inside of an hour going down to the Bank and thence by motor-bus down the Commercial Road till they come to 396, Commercial Road, E., and pay a visit to the East End Mothers' Home, where they will hear stories of poverty, patience, and courage which will make their own troubles seem light in comparison, and a visit to the wards will prove to them that even with lives so hard as they know those of the majority of the patients to be there may still be peace and contentment and even happiness.

The fortnight when the mother is laid up in hospital—a time which by her more gently nurtured sister is regarded as an ordeal, demanding and receiving considerable sympathy—is looked upon as a holiday as welcome relief from the stress and strain of life, albeit a time to be got through as quickly as possible, for in the East End of London the mother is too often the bread-winner, and the rent runs on, and children and even husbands go hungry until she can take up the burden of bread-winning once more.

It is to such a neighbourhood that Miss Anderson, the Matron of the East End Mothers' Home, brings not only experience and skill, but warm sympathy and helpfulness, and it is little wonder that she is beloved by her patients.

This Christmas-time all the children of the patients then on the books both in the Home and on the district, those, that is to say, upon whom the midwives and nurses were in actual attendance, came to a party at the Home—they came from the child in neat frock and clean pinafore to the little bare-footed urchin minus coat and waistcoat, but children are naturally Socialists, it is the personality that matters, not the clothes, and so all were as happy as possible, playing kiss-in-the-ring, for choice, and other games dear to childish hearts. Then came the fathers' turn, and they were entertained to a meat supper, so for once there was "peace and plenty" for both bairns and grown-ups, and the mothers could enjoy their rest in bed conscious that the care and kindness so freely extended to them included also those dear to them. Of course Christmas treats cost money, but Miss Anderson gets it somehow, and if anyone feels disposed to help her gifts large and small will be gratefully received.

### The Central Midwives Board.

#### DECEMBER EXAMINATION.

#### LIST OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.

At the examination of the Central Midwives' Board, held in London on December 16th, 1910, the number of candidates examined was 308, of whom 253 passed the examiners. The percentage of failures was 18.

#### LONDON.

*British Lying-in Hospital.*—N. F. Dale, M. E. Hamilton.

*City of London Lying-in Hospital.*—E. E. Baker, F. E. Blake, O. L. Brading, L. A. E. Hanman, M.

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