

## The Training of Midwives.

There is a large amount of training material available for pupil midwives which is at present unutilised, and the Hospitals Committee of the Oldham Board of Guardians are to be congratulated on having prepared the following scheme:—

### MEMORANDUM.

(1) That a course of maternity lectures, extending over four months, be arranged; that the Superintendent Medical Officer of the Workhouse be appointed as lecturer in midwifery, and that application be made to the Central Midwives' Board for their approval to such appointment.

(2) That upon the completion of her course of training each probationer nurse trained at Oldham Union Workhouse be eligible for appointment as a pupil midwife, provided she has reached a satisfactory standard in her final nursing examination and is reported favourably upon by the medical staff of the Workhouse; that the period of such appointment do extend over six months; and that no salary be payable in respect thereof.

(3) That nurses who have had a three years' training at, and hold a certificate from a training institution other than the Oldham Workhouse Infirmary, be received as midwifery pupils for a period of nine months upon payment of a fee of £10 10s.

(4) That candidates be trained as monthly nurses for a period of four months on payment of a fee of £25.

(In each of these three classes the Guardians will undertake to provide residence, rations, and washing, and in the case of nurses trained at the Oldham Workhouse indoor uniform in addition.)

(5) That the maternity pupils be provided with residence in the central block of the imbecile wards, and that some woman be engaged to act as housekeeper. (Other arrangements to be made by the Guardians as and when necessary.)

(6) That arrangements be made for the pupil midwives to attend all the cases of midwifery on the outdoor relief lists of the Union.

(7) That the value of the rations to be supplied to each pupil midwife shall not exceed 8s. 6d. per week.

(8) That charts, diagrams, and other necessary apparatus for illustrating the lectures be obtained by the chairman and the superintendent medical officer.

(9) That during the whole of the time of training the pupils must act under the sole directions of the superintendent medical officer and the superintendent nurse.

(10) That a prospectus of the school be drawn up and printed for circulation to intending candidates.

A conference of the district medical officers and the chairman of the board was held upon the question. The district medical officers agreed to co-operate in the working of the scheme. It was suggested:—

(1) That as far as possible only fully trained nurses should be sent to attend district cases.

(2) That no pupil should be deputed to attend any cases of the outdoor poor until she has

attended and assisted in a fixed number of cases in the union infirmaries (say six cases).

(3) That the pupils shall take with them the necessary drugs, dressings, and utensils.

(4) That on the issue of an order on the district medical officer by the relieving officer for attendance on any poor person in midwifery, arrangements be made for a pupil midwife to attend and visit the woman with a view to a general supervision being kept on the case and attendance during confinement.

## The National Insurance Bill.

### THE RECOGNITION OF MIDWIVES.

In the House of Commons on Friday, August 4th, when Clause 16, dealing with the administration of maternity benefit, was under discussion, the Chancellor of the Exchequer accepted the proposal made by Mr. Lees Smith that the mother should have the right to choose between midwife and doctor.

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, the following proviso was agreed to:—

“Provided always that the mother shall decide whether she shall be attended by a registered medical practitioner or by a duly certified midwife, and shall have free choice in the selection of such practitioner or midwife.”

### DEPUTATION TO THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.

A Deputation of the National Association of Midwives was recently received at the House of Commons by the Attorney-General, Mr. Rufus Isaacs, K.C., M.P., in the enforced absence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The following suggested amendments to the Insurance Bill were made:—

(1) In every case in connection with maternity benefit, wherever the words “medical man” are mentioned, the words “or midwife” should also be introduced.

(2) That midwives should be adequately represented on all Health Committees and Advisory Committees set up under the scheme. It was especially urged on the attention of the responsible Minister that in all matters pertaining to maternity benefits the midwifery profession should be represented in equal proportion with medical men on the Health Committees.

(3) That in view of the demand of the medical profession, that a rate of pay in maternity cases for medical attendance shall be fixed under the Bill, that a rate should also be fixed for the attendance of midwives.

(4) That in view of the further demand of the medical profession adequately to be represented on the Health Committees dealing with maternity benefits, it was of the most vital importance to the midwifery profession to be equally so represented.

(5) That the patient receiving maternity benefit under the Bill should have a free choice as between attendance by a medical man or a midwife, and should have the right to choose such person.

The adoption of the proviso printed above is very satisfactory to midwives.

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