

a convalescent lying-in woman was the last in the world who should take stimulants.

It was Archdeacon Farrar who said that for sheer human pity he could not see the harm which alcohol did all around him and take that which produced it.

In conclusion, the speaker begged all those present to do their best to help forward the work of the League in their daily lives.

Mrs. Robinson gave an excellent and interesting summary of the foundation and subsequent history of the League, which was founded by Dr. Mary Roche in June, 1905. The midwife who became the first member of the League on that memorable afternoon was in the room.

After the meeting new pledges were taken.

### AN IMPORTANT POINT IN DISTRICT MIDWIFERY.

At an inquest, as reported by *The Times*, held at the Lambeth Coroner's Court by Mr. Troutbeck concerning the death of an infant, it was stated that on the day after the birth the child was taken, on the instruction of the nurse in attendance, to Guy's Hospital, where a doctor directed that some tablets should be given and that the infant should be taken home. Death took place soon afterwards. Annie Brown, a trained hospital nurse, said that she had been at Guy's Hospital for six weeks as a pupil midwife, and had been present at 22 births. She and another pupil midwife attended the mother in this case, and the child seemed all right when born. Dr. Freyberger attributed death to suffocation from bronchitis, produced at birth. The Coroner remarked that it was surprising that cases should be attended from a hospital by nurses who, however competent they might be, were not on the register. It was distinctly contrary to the Midwives Act, which laid it down that persons who were not doctors must not attend cases professionally unless they were registered. In returning a verdict of "Death from natural causes," the jury exonerated the nurse from blame, but expressed the opinion that the hospital authorities ought to send a certified midwife to such cases.

No doubt this case will elicit an expression of opinion from the Central Midwives' Board, and will cause an inquiry into the practice of district midwifery not only by pupil midwives, but also by medical students. It is a question ripe for discussion and reform. From a nursing point of view, we question whether it is ever justifiable to take a sick infant out of doors the day after birth. We do not think it is.

### IN MEMORY OF DR. STANLEY ATKINSON.

Sir William Collins unveiled a bust of the late Dr. Stanley Bean Atkinson, in the Mile End Library, Bancroft Road, E., last week. Dr. Atkinson proved himself a good friend to midwives, when a member of the Central Midwives' Board. A barrister and doctor of independent means, he devoted the chief part of his life to the welfare of the poor in the East End, and was a member of several public bodies. In order that the people might have access to him at all times, he took a house in Mile End Road, and there his store of legal, medical, and general knowledge was ever at the service of the poor. It will be remembered that he died at the early age of 36, deeply regretted by a wide circle of friends.

### A FORTUNATE MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

At Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital, Marylebone Road, last year 1,775 women were admitted to the wards. The average daily number of patients in the hospital was 63, and their stay 13 days. The average total cost of each was £3 10s. 10d. The number of out-patients was 2,449. The average cost was 10s. 7d. The ordinary expenditure amounted to £7,164. The income was £14,135, of which £7,714 came from legacies.

### MATERNITY CASES AT SWANSEA HOSPITAL.

The Swansea Hospital Board have adopted the following resolution: "Seeing that on an average 12 women die every year in Swansea from the accidents of child-birth; seeing that these deaths are, in the main, preventable; and seeing that in London and all the large provincial towns of England and Wales, except Swansea, hospital treatment is available for these cases, the medical staff recommend that they should be made eligible for admission in the Swansea Hospital."

It is a great advantage for a general hospital to have a maternity ward, both for medical and nurse pupils, and we are pleased Swansea Hospital will in the future admit maternity cases, but the very large majority of general hospitals, both in London and the provinces, have got to make provision for the treatment of lying-in women.

### A GOOD EXAMPLE.

The Somerset County Council, in reply to a petition from the members of the West Somerset Midwives' Association (presented by Miss du Sautoy), have granted the midwives practising in their area the postage of their notification forms to the Local Supervising Authority. They have also sanctioned that the various forms of notification be supplied to the midwives, together with the records for temperature and pulse, which according to the new rules, have to be kept for each patient. The petition bore 50 signatures.

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