

mittee be held on the same day as the next meeting of the Board and immediately previous to the Finance Committee."

Mr. Parker Young said he was afraid this arrangement would not answer but they could but try it.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for March 18th.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The Secretary reported that there was a deficiency of £2,275 6s. 11d. on the past year, and that the Board had practically £240 in hand, which was not nearly enough for its requirements. He was authorised to obtain an overdraft at the bank if necessary.

#### A RARE OCCURRENCE.

An imperforate rectum in the new-born baby is of sufficiently rare occurrence to make the following account of interest to nurses and midwives.

The baby was a male, the fifth child, and born at full time. It was apparently quite healthy: colour good, heart and lungs normal. Weight, 7 lbs. The first day baby was put to the breast at the regulation times. He sucked well, but vomited each time after his feed.

No meconium was passed. There was no distention of the abdomen, and the baby was not distressed in any way.

The second day no meconium had been passed, the abdomen was markedly distended and the child vomited frequently, the vomit being green in colour.

The anus was normal, but on the finger being passed into the rectum an obstruction was met with about an inch within the anal opening.

Laparotomy was performed, but it was found impossible to unite the lower ends of the intestine and a colotomy was done. The result, however, was unfavourable and the baby died.

D. O. I.

#### CONFERENCE ON BABIES.

The Women's Labour League are convening a conference, to be held this month at Essex Hall, Strand, to discuss the care of babies and young children. Papers on the following subjects will be presented:—"Nature versus Education," by Miss Margaret Macmillan; "Provision for Maternity," by Miss Llewellyn Davies; "Training for Parenthood," by Mrs. Despard; and "The Work of the Baby Clinic, the Memorial of the Women's Labour League to Margaret Macdonald and Mary Middleton," by Dr. Ethel Bentham. Amongst those who will take part in the discussions are Mrs. George Cadbury, Mrs. Creighton, Sir Victor Horsley, F.R.C.S., F.R.S., and Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald, M.P. The chair will be taken by the Hon. Lily Montague and Miss Marion Phillips, D.Sc. (Econ.)

#### THE CITY OF LONDON LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

The City of London Lying-in Hospital is one of the oldest of the City Charities, having carried on its good work for over 160 years. At the Annual Court of Governors, held last week, Mr. J. Francis, J.P., Chairman of the Committee of Management, who presided, said that, except from the point of view of finance, the report was satisfactory, the number of patients exceeding that of the previous year by 145. In the out-patients' department the number was not so large, but the total number of children born in both departments was no less than 3,571. Twenty-four male medical practitioners and students were attending midwifery practice in the hospital, twelve more than in the previous year. He drew attention to the fact that the majority of people regarded hospitals merely from the point of view of the patients, overlooking the great and most important fact that they were also schools of medicine, where doctors and nurses could gain that experience which was absolutely necessary in the interests of the nation at large. In reference to the effect of the National Insurance Act on charitable institutions, he hoped that, if contributors were likely to reduce their contributions, they would take a broad view, and try to realize that in helping hospitals they were conferring a benefit not merely upon individuals in their own immediate district, but also throughout the kingdom. Their deficiency amounted last year to £428, and they had to pay no less than £546 in interest on the loan from the bankers; therefore, if they could raise sufficient to balance their loan account they would be in smooth water.

The Chairman stated that the Lord Mayor, as a member of the medical profession, had taken a great interest in the hospital, and as President of the hospital, during his year of office, was taking a large share in promoting the success of their Festival Dinner, over which he would preside on April 22nd, at the Savoy Hotel.

Hearty thanks were due to the medical staff and to the matron, who never spared herself, and who, with other friends, had raised funds for the completion of the chapel. He regretted to say that it was probably the last annual meeting which Mr. Outhwaite would attend as their secretary. After forty years' service he felt justly entitled to a rest.

#### LEICESTER MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

The annual report of the Leicester Maternity Hospital states that thirteen pupils were trained during the year for the examination of the Central Midwives' Board, of these only one failed to pass.

The appointment of a District Midwife has been amply justified.

In the spring, the Assistant Matron, Miss Rattray, resigned, having filled the post capably for a year. Miss Davies, from Queen Charlotte's Hospital (London), was appointed in her place.

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