

ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING THE TRAINING AND SUPPLY OF MIDWIVES.

The eighth Annual Meeting of this most useful association was held in the Caxton Hall, on the afternoon of February 29th.

No time was wasted over the somewhat lengthy agenda, each item being dealt with in a prompt and business-like manner, which fact elicited from the Chairman, Mr. Cosmo Bonsor, duly appreciated praise. We should like to observe *en passant* that women's meetings usually are of this character.

The minutes of the last meeting having been taken as read, the re-election of the officers and the election of two new members was moved by the Chairman and seconded by Sir George Fordham. The latter referred to the work of the association as an important factor in stimulating public thought in the country, and as having indirect influence upon medical inspection of schools, school nurses, and, indeed, all nursing.

The Duchess of Montrose, who moved the re-election of the Executive, Finance and Advisory Committees, said that the successful work of the association had amply proved the need of it. Among its splendid results, she rightly placed the reduction of infant mortality first; and secondly, the lessening of cases of blindness. Her remark that only superior and intelligent women should be trained as midwives was, naturally, applauded. It was greatly to be deplored, she continued, that the Midwives' Act did not extend to Scotland; nevertheless, in spite of this strange omission, great progress had been made by our sisters over the border, and good work was being done.

Mrs. von Glehn, a member of the Council, spoke of the "dark era" that preceded the coming of the trained midwife in a little village in the West Country. About the details of that "dark era" she significantly refrained from speaking; she left the contrast between light and darkness to our vivid imaginations!

After the adoption of the Annual Report had been moved and seconded, Miss Lucy Robinson gave an account of the work done at the East Ham Training Home, which was started by the association, maintenance of which is one of its objects. Out of the seventeen who sat for the examinations of the Central Midwives' Board, sixteen passed at the first attempt. The one who failed was successful at the next examination. As many of the women were very illiterate, this was a very gratifying fact, as was also the announcement that not a single maternal death had occurred during the year.

Dr. F. E. Fremantle, M.O.H. for Hertfordshire, gave an address on the National Insurance Act, and ended on an optimistic note. He considered that better times were coming for midwives and district nurses, as their position would be more assured under the Act.

After a vote of thanks to Mr. Cosmo Bonsor and Dr. Fremantle, the business terminated.

B. K.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MIDWIVES.

The secretaries of the Manchester and Blackburn branches of the National Association of Midwives arranged a meeting at Preston on March 5th with the object of forming a branch in that town and district, where there are 54 working midwives. Active work is also going on in Blackburn.

UNION OF MIDWIVES.

THE Whist Drive kindly arranged by Mrs. Rowden, one of the committee of the Union of Midwives, and held at her residence, the Pemberton Nursing Institute, 36, St. John's Park, Highgate, proved a great success, financially as well as socially.

There were sixty persons present, and twelve prizes, all of which were presented by friends of Mrs. Rowden, and were distributed as follows:—

LADIES.

First prize, silver backed hand mirror, Mrs. Hughes—score, 175.

Second prize, silver-mounted umbrella, Mrs. Smith—score 173.

Third prize, rose bowl, Mrs. Pendrill—score 168.

Second half highest score, trinket box, Miss E. M. Betles—score, 91.

Mystery prize, silk hand-worked blotter, Nurse McCracken.

Booby prize, Black Cat candlestick, Nurse Williams.

GENTLEMEN.

First prize, shaving mirror, Mr. Loveday—score, 172.

Second prize, hall brush set, Mr. Kurz—score 170

Third prize, brass inkstand, Mr. Holloway—score, 167.

First half highest score, cigarette-box, Mr. Plant—score, 95.

Mystery prize, golf cap and collar, Mr. Sargent.

Booby prize, toy revolver, Mr. Ewen.

BELFAST MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

Mr. George Herbert Ewart, J.P., presided at the 118th Annual Meeting of the Incorporated Belfast Maternity Hospital last week. The report, was presented by Mr. William Leslie, in the absence of Mrs. Deacon, the Secretary, who was absent, through illness, for the first time for many years. In the intern department there were 567 patients, and in the extern 556, to whom 3,284 visits were paid.

Mrs. Dobbs, of Castle Dobbs, reminded the audience that the primary object of the hospital was the "Treatment and benefit of necessitous women of all denominations in their confinements. If to more favoured mothers the period of rest was so beneficial, and in so many cases, especially among society women, so necessary, what must it be to women who were not only the "loaf-givers, but often the bread-earners, and who but for the kindness to each other, which was so wonderful amongst the poor themselves, would have but little cessation from work and none from anxiety."

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