

mean character of the offspring can be calculated with the more exactness the more extensive our knowledge of the corresponding characters of the ancestry."

There is an ever-increasing output of books treating with this fascinating subject of heredity, many of them far too complicated and technical for the general reader, and even the simplest make considerable demands on the intelligence, and call for concentration and thought. As an introduction, Punnett's lucid little book on Mendelism, published in 1905, is to be recommended. Thomson's "Heredity" gives a bird's-eye view of the hitherto known and unknown principles which are at work in heredity, and a charming book by the Whethams, "The Family and the Nation," brings home the practical and sociological aspect of the question. M. O. H.

#### THE WOMEN'S HOSPITAL, BRIGHTON.

The Vicar of Brighton (Canon Hoskyns) presided at the Annual Meeting of the Brighton and Hove Hospital for Women, in West Street, held recently at the Royal Pavilion. The Committee state in their 81st Annual Report that, with regard to the supreme need for a new hospital building, they reluctantly feel that the time has not yet arrived when an appeal can be made to the public for the necessary funds. They, however, have under consideration a proposal which they confidently believe will, in the near future, attain the object in view without appealing to the public for any very large sum of money. The in-patients numbered 176, out-patients 468, and midwifery cases 1,161.

Lady Louise Loder was re-elected President, and the Vice-Presidents were re-appointed.

Mr. Leonard Holmes, the devoted and efficient Hon. Secretary, said that the Governors would have very seriously to consider the district work in view of the fact that under the National Insurance Act women will receive 30s. in each maternity case. Their terms might have to be modified somewhat, and even abolished, as it would be difficult for the hospital to justify its position as a charitable institution if it took practically the whole of the 30s. received by the women.

Dr. W. A. Bowering, replying to a vote of thanks to the honorary Medical Officers, said that there was a very strong feeling among the medical men of the town about charging fees, and he hoped they would be abolished.

The Hospital, which is doing most excellent work, deserves substantial support.

#### LIVERPOOL MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

It is evident that Liverpool badly needs the new Maternity Hospital which it is to have through the generosity of Sir William Hartley

Last year it was necessary to send 116 women away owing to lack of accommodation, and to shorten the period for which patients remain in the hospital from fourteen days to twelve. Unfortunately, though the hospital does such good work, and has trained 67 pupils in its School of Midwifery during the past year, its financial position is still unsatisfactory, and its expenditure exceeded its reliable income last year by £457. £15,000 has now been raised towards the endowment of the new Hospital, including the sum of £2,130, the result of the Coronation Fund opened by Mrs. Mason Hutchinson when Lady Mayoress. The Lord Mayor (the Earl of Derby), who presided at the recent annual meeting, warmly advocated the claims of the institution.

#### NEW WARDS AT THE ROTUNDA HOSPITAL.

Last week the new labour wards at the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, were inspected, on the invitation of the Master, Dr. Jellett, by the Governors and a number of medical men. The new wards, which formerly were used as a nurses' dormitory, with the three small rooms attached, form a distinct unit, separate from the lying-in wards, for the reception of maternity patients. The wards have been so arranged and fitted as to rank with the best of their kind in Europe.

The committee appointed to advise on the question considered that the future status of the Hospital was intimately involved with its labour ward system, so that it was incumbent on it to maintain its position amongst maternity hospitals throughout the world.

#### CHINESE MIDWIFERY.

A medical missionary in China writing in the *Lancet* of midwifery says:—"We are scarcely ever called in till decomposition of the fetus is in progress, the old women midwives having done their worst. We do not make a feature of this work, but out of 64 cases it is interesting to note that *only 14 were normal*. There were 6 maternal deaths. There were 11 cases of transverse presentation with either tonic contraction of the uterus or septic decomposition of the contents; of these 1 child only was saved. Decapitation is usually our procedure, but so far from it being easy we have found it extremely difficult, so acute is the flexion of the child and so firm the grip of the uterine muscle. Usually for days after such a case one's fingers have but small power. Chinese midwifery, as we have met it, is awful in its simplicity; it consists usually in letting the patient die if normal delivery is not possible. One case treated in our wards was that of a woman from whose uterus we removed the remains of an "aftercoming head" 38 days after the remainder of the body had been wrenched away by Chinese midwives."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)