

consent of the Chairman of the Nursing Committee, in order that full details of the proposed scheme might be submitted.

Sir William Sinclair, as a member of the Central Midwives' Board, has on more than one occasion objected to the recognition of workhouses, and workhouse infirmaries, as training schools for midwives, on the ground that there would be an inducement to admit cases which would otherwise not be received, for teaching purposes, and the present instance—although it is not proposed to admit additional in-patients—seems to show that the warning is not unnecessary.

On the other hand, a member of the Board—Mr. Fazackerley—pointed out that to allow their salaried nurses to compete with other nurses (presumably midwives) who had to help to pay these salaries was a stupid proposition.

Indeed, it is difficult for independent midwives to obtain a living wage now, and if they are to be confronted with competitors subsidized by Boards of Guardians their position will be almost impossible.

In our view the points for the Guardians to consider in deciding this question are the interests of the poor, which it is their duty to safeguard, and the interests of the ratepayers to whom they are responsible.

From both points of view we consider it legitimate for them to arrange for the outdoor attendance of their midwifery pupils on such cases as would otherwise have to be admitted for in-patient treatment.

In the near future many of such cases will probably be in receipt of the Maternity Benefit under the National Insurance Bill and are therefore not unprovided for during the lying-in period. The ratepayers have to contribute indirectly to the allowance so made, and there seems therefore no reason why outdoor attendance by midwives appointed by the Guardians should not be sanctioned. This would prove much the most economical plan for the Guardians, and obviate the heavy expenses of in-patient treatment including ward space, maintenance, washing of bed and personal linen, and a proportion of the salaries of doctor and nurses. If efficiently organized, a saving of many thousands of pounds during the year would probably be effected by the establishment, on an extensive scale, of out-door maternity attendance on poor law cases, and besides the pecuniary gain, the self-respect of the mothers would not be demoralized by admission to the "House" and the children born would not have to bear the stigma throughout life of workhouse birth.

THE GLASGOW MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

The Lord Provost, in moving the adoption of the report, at the annual meeting of the Glasgow Maternity and Women's Hospital, and referring to the unsatisfactory financial position, said, that it appeared to him that the only course for the directors was to see that their case was properly stated in the city, and then the city's duty would be obvious, namely, to carry on the work.

Professor MacAlister said that though all hospitals subserved human ends, the Glasgow Maternity Hospital made a special appeal to their humanity if only for the reason that every case treated within it which was a case of emergency, was one in which two lives were at stake. He declined to believe that anyone could over-estimate the powers, the liberality or the public spiritedness of Glasgow, and he repudiated the suggestion. If that hospital had to be restricted in its operations, if wards were to be closed, if the opportunity for training was to be limited or restrained, the regulations of the medical school would still remain, but they would have to send their Glasgow men and women to be trained in some other place where they were not afraid to support such a school in a proper way, and Glasgow would lose that pride of place to which she had just reason to aspire.

REGISTERED MIDWIFERY NURSES IN QUEENSLAND.

The Health Act Amendment Act in Queensland, which contains clauses dealing with the registration of Nurses, provides for the registration of midwifery nurses under the following conditions:— "Every person who, on the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and twelve, holds a certificate of midwifery from some hospital or other institution recognised by the Board under this Act, and proves to the satisfaction of the Board that during her training she received systematic instruction in midwifery from the Medical Officer and Matron of that hospital or institution, shall be entitled to registration as a midwifery nurse on payment of a fee of ten shillings, and on making application on or before the thirty-first day of December, one thousand nine hundred and twelve."

"After the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and twelve, every person who has attained the age of twenty-one years and holds the certificate hereinafter mentioned, and passes the prescribed examination, shall be entitled to such registration, on payment of the fee of one pound."

"For the purpose of such examination every person desiring to be registered as a midwifery nurse must hold the following certificates: (a) If registered as a general nurse, of having attended for not less than six months, and in all other cases, of having attended for not less than twelve months, the practice of a lying-in hospital recognised by the Board; and (b) of having received systematic instruction in theoretical and practical nursing, as prescribed by the regulations."

Provision is made for the registration of midwifery nurses, who do not come within the above provisions, but who, previous to the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and twelve, have obtained certificates issued by any such hospital, or who have had not less than three years' experience as midwifery nurses, the period of grace to end on December 31st of this year.

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