

less hospital training; 15 hold certificates of three years' training from recognized training schools, and 21 (*i.e.*, Queen's Nurses) have had six months' district training in addition. 36 have had midwifery training only.

The Inspector divides the trained midwives into (1) those working under committees (including 90 working under the County Nursing Association and 37 under independent associations) and (2) those working on their own account, of whom there were 28. Of the latter 1 had over 100 cases, 1 had over 50 cases, 4 had over 20 cases, 8 had under 20 cases, 11 had no cases, and 3 had monthly cases only.

Of the *bonâ fide* midwives 1 had over 100 cases, 4 had over 50, 13 over 20, 68 had under 20, and 16 had no cases.

Miss Du Sautoy points out that one of the new rules of the Central Midwives' Board is that every midwife must take and record her patient's temperatures night and morning. As many of the *bonâ fides* midwives can neither read nor write it is obviously impossible for them to obey it. Most of the *bonâ fides* have to depend on some one to keep their registers for them. In many villages the incumbent or his wife does this; in other cases the midwife gets a grandchild or some other relative to do it.

Miss Du Sautoy points out that these old midwives cannot in the course of nature continue their work much longer, and unless something is done many more places will be without midwives than there are at present. She advocates the formation of associations run on the "provident" or club basis and visiting system.

THE CARE OF INFANTS AND MOTHERS.

We have received from Mrs. Barnes, Central Secretary of the Nurses' Social Union, 25, Duppas Hill Road, Croydon, a "Syllabus of Seven Simple Lectures on the Care of Infants and Mothers," by Miss C. M. Symonds, Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and Certified Midwife, Masseuse, &c., which should be useful to those nurses and midwives who undertake to give instruction on these important subjects in the form of popular health lectures. The syllabus may be obtained from the above address, price 7d., postage ½d., or postage of twelve copies 4d.

WATCHWORDS.

The little book has two watchwords:—

"There is life here—there is promise—there are innumerable things to work for and fight for; and that is the main thing. . . . "I mean to have the right to look my sons in the face when they are grown men."—Dr. Stockmann in Ibsen's "An Enemy of the People."

"The final outcome and consummation of all wealth is in the producing as many as possible full-breathed, bright-eyed and happy human creatures."—Ruskin, "Unto this Last."

The syllabus is commended in a brief preface by Dr. Ralph Vincent, whose scientific and enthusiastic work on behalf of 'babies' is well known. Dr. Vincent says that "the problems of the nation are writ large in the problems of infancy. The rearing of a great and strong people means caring for mothers, babies and children. Miss Symonds has managed to compress into comparatively few words an astonishing amount of good sense."

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE LECTURER.

Miss Symonds, in her introductory suggestions, remarks that "a certain amount of recapitulation in the Notes for these lectures is intentional; it does not bore the rather uncultivated minds of the average working woman (they are, on the contrary, rather pleased when it can be proved how well they remember), it serves to connect the lectures together. It is good that anyone who has missed a lecture should have the salient points introduced into another.

"And it is certain that the only way to drive a nail into a wall, and more especially into a hard one, is to keep on hitting it on the head with well-directed force."

The syllabus of the seven lectures is printed on one side of the page only, and the opposite one reserved for notes for the lecturer. The following are the subjects of the lectures:—

1. The infant's first needs: fresh air, warmth, and cleanliness.
2. Clothing, rest and sleep.
3. Breast feeding: its advantages, how to obtain a good supply; things which retard the milk-flow.
4. Substitutes for breast-feeding. The right food. The bottle.
5. Mistakes made in infant feeding. Irregularity. Contamination of milk. Wrong foods.
6. The care of the mother.
7. The practical preparation and minor ailments of pregnancy.

Some excellent drawings of an infant's first frock, flannel, knitted vest, &c., are included, the paper patterns of which are obtainable from the Nurses' Social Union at the address given above, as well as the knitting instructions for the vest.

THE ASSOCIATION OF INSPECTORS OF MIDWIVES.

The Annual Meeting of the Association of Inspectors of Midwives will be held in the Royal Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, London, S.W., on April 25th, at 11 a.m. We are asked to state that any member who has not received a notice is requested to apply to the Hon. Secretary, Miss Du Sautoy, 16, Elm Grove, Taunton, from whom all particulars as to membership can be obtained.

The work of Inspectors of Midwives is onerous as well as honourable, and conference with one another is both stimulating and helpful.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)