

forgot to be honest to her class and her profession that she would never speak again.

Referring to the *bona-fide* midwives Mrs. Lawson said that there were some grand women amongst them, women who did things for the pure love of their fellows. They should combine with these, and there was urgent need for combination. They should have a vigilance committee holding a watching brief in connection with every fresh piece of proposed legislation affecting their work.

In the past they had had well-meaning friends, but, said Mrs. Lawson, unless the desire comes from within nothing will raise your status. No outsider can do that for you.

Every midwife should set out with an ideal, and avail herself of any opportunity for broadening her outlook, in connection with her duty to her patients, and their children. In Lancashire 75 per cent. of the childbirths are attended by midwives, so the responsibility and power of influence of the latter is great. By combination midwives come into contact with others and you find out that though you know quite a lot, there are others who know things which you do not. There is a proverb, said the speaker, that "experience teaches fools." "Well," she remarked, "that is where people make a mistake, it doesn't."

It is, she further remarked, largely owing to women that women doctors are not more employed. "If you want to uplift your sex," she said, "be loyal to them and help them along." It was sometimes said to her that men would tell men doctors their symptoms, but it was outrageous for a woman to doctor a man. Did not the same apply to woman? Was it not easier to confide in a member of one's own sex?

Mrs. Lawson earnestly reiterated that until midwives see the necessity for combination they are not going to get much forwarder. They must put their shoulder to the wheel. If, for instance, you wait on the head of a Government Department you are asked how many you represent. If you have to reply 200 or 300 you are of no account, but if you could say you represent the 32,000 midwives on the Roll, you could get anything you want. Combine and make yourselves felt.

HOW TO START MIDWIFERY ASSOCIATIONS.

Mrs. Stephen Glanville said that now that the Midwives Act is passed it is to midwives themselves that we must look for the regeneration of their profession. The greatest difficulty to contend with is the apathy of the women themselves. The solitary life is all very well for some people, but not for those belonging to a profession. In regard to starting local associations, Mrs. Glanville advised that some midwife should be found to act as a centre, or a list of practising midwives in a locality can be obtained from the local health authorities, and the loan of a room for a meeting arranged for. Association broadens sympathy and outlook.

(To be continued.)

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

Examination Paper, April 29, 1912.

1. What facts may be learned by listening to the foetal heart at the beginning of and during the course of labour? 2. Under what circumstances would you consider the second stage of labour unduly prolonged? What ill effects to mother and child may arise from its prolongation, and how would you recognise them? 3. What are the lochia? Describe their usual character and duration, and the normal changes they undergo; What unusual characters may they present, and what would such changes mean? 4. Give the details of your management of the breasts and nipples during pregnancy and the puerperium; What diseases of the breasts and nipples may occur during the puerperium, and how would you recognise them? 5. What information can you derive from making internal examinations? What possible dangers must be guarded against? What rules of the Central Midwives Board bear on the subject? 6. State exactly your management of a breast-fed baby during the first ten days. By what signs would you judge that the baby is not thriving?

UNION OF MIDWIVES.

The Annual Meeting of the Union of Midwives took place in London on April 25th, when Mrs. Robinson took the chair, and Mrs. Margaret Lawson, President of the National Association of Midwives, gave a brief address.

The Secretary of the Union of Midwives read the report of the Society's doings for the year, April, 1911—April, 1912.

The report was approved.

Mrs. Robinson was asked to continue her office as President for the ensuing year, and the following ladies were asked to retain their seats on the Committee: Mrs. McQuay, Mrs. Rowden, Mrs. Macdonald, Mrs. Simmonds, Mrs. Gannev, Miss Gladys Tatham, and Miss Gertrude Marks.

Several new members were elected to sit on the Committee.

Special votes of thanks were accorded to Mrs. Rowden and Miss Gertrude Marks for their untiring devotion to the work of the Union and for the substantial financial help they have given from time to time—Mrs. Rowden in giving two whist drives and Miss Marks interesting her friends and obtaining their services for a concert.

The whole proceeds of whist drives and concert were handed over to the Union of Midwives.

A very hearty vote of thanks was also accorded to the President and Secretaries of various branches of the Union for excellent work done.

MIDWIVES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

A Bill "to secure the better training of midwives in Scotland and to regulate their practice" has been introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. G. N. Barnes, M.P. for Glasgow (Blackfriars), and read a first time.

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