

Since its constitution in December 1911, the special department of the League concerned with child welfare has been at work on lines to a great extent identical with those set forth in the circular already referred to. It has secured the affiliation of 50 societies in all parts of the kingdom, comprising voluntary associations, municipal Infant Consultation centres and Schools for Mothers, and other institutions for promoting the welfare of mothers and infants and of young children generally, up to compulsory school age. It is further in close touch and constant communication with the rest of these societies. The General and Executive Committees, on which the medical profession is largely represented, are on a purely democratic basis and the members are all active workers on the various institutions they represent.

Already a considerable amount of useful practical work has been done. A great deal of literature (such as case-papers, weight charts, health leaflets, health posters, &c.) has been prepared by experts, and published at a cheap rate for the use of those who are engaged in this work; statistics have been collected and information, advice and help have been given in starting societies all over the country. One exhibition illustrative of this admirable welfare work has been held, and another is in course of preparation; and, finally, owing to the propagandist efforts of the League, the number of local Health Societies has been doubled within the last year.

Duplication of effort and overlapping are to be deprecated. It is greatly to be hoped that before this new Association comes into being, steps may be taken to ensure that there be no loss of energy or power, through preventible overlapping, in dealing with a question of such vital importance to the well-being of the whole nation.

Yours, &c.,  
(Signed) W. BOYD CARPENTER.  
LAUDER BRUNTON.  
JOHN TWEEDY.

4, Tavistock Square,  
London, W.C.

#### THE SUPERVISION OF MIDWIFERY STUDENTS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—We are indebted to you for bringing to our notice many matters of interest to midwives in our JOURNAL; but I should like specially to thank you for your claim that attendance on midwifery cases by students or pupil midwives, unaccompanied by anyone competent to instruct them and supervise their work, should not be recognised by the Insurance Commissioners as qualifying for the Maternity Benefit. Those of us who follow up students' cases, subsequently have reason to know the urgent need for such supervision; and I think medical students would be the first to be thankful for such an arrangement.

If the mothers, or their husbands, pay for the attendance of a medical practitioner or midwife, through their Approved Societies, they are entitled to claim it; and I hope that the Commissioners will safeguard the interests of the lying-in women by insisting that the provisions of the Act shall be enforced unamended. The practical midwifery of both students and midwives would be of a higher grade than at present, when they undertake private practice, if they conducted their twenty requisite cases under supervision.

Thanking you once more for the stand you always make in the interests of adequate standards of training, and the efficient care of the poor in illness—if I may be allowed to include a confinement case in this category,

I am, Dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,  
SUPERINTENDENT.

#### REPLIES.

*Inquirer, Birmingham.*—Enquiries should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., sending a stamped envelope for reply.

*Maternity Nurse, Croydon.*—We felt sure you would find King's Patent Cooked Oatmeal satisfactory. Many midwives and trained nurses rely on it for providing the gruel which is so necessary and so comforting to the patient after a confinement, and subsequently, if she nurses the child. The fact that the oatmeal is already cooked, and consequently the gruel can be made in the shortest possible time ensures it a place in the outfit of many district midwives. It is, what it claims to be, "invaluable."

*Probationer, London.*—It is impossible for nurses to obtain experience in all the specialities during their three years' training. We advise you to acquaint your matron with your plans for the future, she will then probably bear them in mind in arranging your training. Most associations sending nurses abroad or to the Colonies make the certificate of the Central Midwives' Board a *sine qua non*.

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR JUNE.

*June 8th.*—How do you care for clinical thermometers? Describe the various methods of taking a patient's temperature, and the way in which you would proceed in each case. What points would you impress on a new probationer in connection with the use of thermometers?

*June 15th.*—Mention the principal points to be considered in the general care of the operating room.

*June 22nd.*—What symptoms would lead you to suspect puerperal thrombosis of the lower extremities?

*June 29th.*—Describe the methods of applying. (a) dry cupping, (b) wet cupping.

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