

# The Midwife.

## WHOSE FAULT?

"Four months; convulsions; losing weight since birth; vomits after food." Such is "Charles Henry's" sordid little history as he is hurried out of the casualty to the ward, where the "lady" who has brought him explains volubly that she is not the mother, but has had him since he was a fortnight old; couldn't have looked after him better if he had been her own; that he cries most of the day and all night; that " 'e draws up 'is little legs and 'as inward convulsions "; and " that she reckons it 'ud be a good thing if it pleased th' Almighty to take 'im."

She rolls up Charles Henry's plentiful but grimy clothing with an evident air of relief, and is sure he has been baptised, though on further questioning she thought the Sister meant vaccinated, and takes her departure.

"Charles Henry" lies in an immaculate cot, and his wasted little body is cleaner than its wont. He lies with his sunken little eyes half open and his fists clenched. He looks very blue, and just now he is feebly wailing because his dirty little teat, the only comfort he had, has just been taken from him.

After work his mother comes, and on learning that his chances of life are very small, she cries over him a little in a dull, despairing way, and one must not judge her harshly when she says she "must hurry out and pay his insurance money, which is owing for three weeks." A hard, unlovely life such as hers must knock out a great deal of sentiment, and in her eyes for the baby to be buried by the parish would be a tragedy indeed.

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The light creeps through the windows and down the long ward, and the night nurse puts out the lights and prepares for the rush of the early morning work, and Charles Henry's spirit goes out to meet the early dawn, and as his wan, unbabylike face is covered over, one fancies one can hear "his angel" asking: "Whose fault is it that this life has been so full of suffering and has ended so soon? Why did his mother have to work up till nearly the time of his birth? Why was he not fed as babies were meant to be? Why was his only taste of fresh air late at night in the crowded market?"

M. A. FUSSELL.

## THE BABY CLINIC OF THE WOMEN'S LABOUR LEAGUE.

No better memorial of Mrs. Ramsay MacDonald and her friend, Mrs. Middleton, could have been decided upon by the Women's Labour League than the Baby Clinic at 12, Telford Road, North Kensington, which was opened last autumn.

The house is a mile-and-a-half from the nearest hospital; and the hope of the promoters of the Clinic is to show in this poor district that a higher standard of health may be reached, if medical aid is freely at the command of parents for the many small and mysterious ailments of childhood. Outpatients' Departments can only be used in definite illness. Poverty keeps parents from seeking private medical advice, except in grave and acute need; and so preventive medicine hardly reaches the children of the poor.

A drawing-room meeting is to be held (by invitation of the Committee of the Clinic, and by kind permission of Mr. J. Ramsay MacDonald, M.P.), at 3, Lincoln's Inn Fields, on Friday, June 28th, when Sir George Newman will preside; and the Hon. Mrs. Ernest Franklin will give an address on "Early Influences." All information as to the Clinic may be obtained from the Secretary, 12, Telford Road, W.

## CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

### THE JUNE EXAMINATION.

The following is the Examination Paper set to candidates at the examination of the Central Midwives Board, in London and the Provinces, on June 11th:—

1. Describe the shape of the female pelvis, and give the length of the principal diameters.
2. Give the mechanism of labour in a case where the occiput points backwards and to the right.
3. A woman is bleeding severely at the third month of pregnancy and sends for you. What would you do? Give reasons for your answer.
4. What conditions would lead you to suspect the existence of some obstruction during labour? What is a midwife's duty in such a case?
5. What form of infection is likely to follow the retention of a piece of the placenta after delivery, and what are its characteristics?
6. Under what conditions must a midwife disinfect herself and all her instruments and other appliances, and have her clothing thoroughly disinfected, to the satisfaction of the Local Supervising Authority, before going to any other maternity patient?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)