

is given in Olchawiec (Russia). Other women, especially Jewesses, are said to suck blood from the child's navel. Ukrainian women drink water in which a portion of an umbilical cord has soaked. Among some of the Roumanians in Hungary it is the custom that a barren woman eat the dried remains of the navel string and drink some of the blood. A Kamtchadal woman, who on bearing wishes to become pregnant soon again, eats her infant's navel string; while among the Maori women of the Tupu tribe certain trees which are associated in the popular mind with the navel strings of mythical ancestors have the power of making women fruitful, and until lately the navel strings of all newborn children were hung on their branches. Barren women embrace them, and according whether they embrace them from the east or west side they conceive boys or girls.

TRAINED MATERNITY NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

This Association, which was founded in the spring of last year, has its head office at 33, Strand, London, a very conveniently situated place—close to Charing Cross station. The following are the main objects of the Association:—

OBJECTS.

- 1.—To unite for their mutual protection Trained Maternity Nurses whose names are on the Register of the above Association.
- 2.—To constitute the practice of Maternity Nursing by Maternity Nurses.
- 3.—To definitely pledge to co-operate in the great fight for State Registration.
- 4.—To wear a distinctive badge.
- 5.—To maintain a Register and Employment Bureau for the use of Maternity Nurses and those who require their services.
- 6.—To establish post-graduate lectures on Maternity Nursing in London and the provinces.

The Association has an interesting field of work before it. In a leaflet recently issued it is stated that the skilful and sympathetic nursing of mother and babies is one of the most important branches of nursing, and yet, strange as it may seem, in the present condition of the law any woman may undertake the calling of a maternity nurse whatever her qualifications or disqualifications may be. Her personal habits may be far from cleanly, her knowledge on technical matters nil, yet she is free to do as she pleases—to undo perhaps in an hour all the good wrought during the anxious period of child-birth by skilled midwifery treatment.

Fortunately a woman can train as a maternity nurse *if she chooses*, and still more fortunately there are a number of conscientious women who have taken advantage of this chance and gone in for institution training in maternity nursing.

It is these trained maternity nurses the Association proposes to organize and help. A list of trained maternity nurses residing in England and Wales, and when they are disengaged, is kept at the office of the Association, and those requiring the services of *fully qualified and recommended nurses* are earnestly requested to apply to the Secretary of the Trained Maternity Nurses' Association who will give every information.

Another useful departure is the supply by the Association of patterns of maternity gowns and baby clothes, which can be obtained at the office, and orders taken for the same at moderate charges.

Mrs. M. Binnie, the kind and enthusiastic Secretary, may be applied to for all further information.

EXAMINATIONS.

The next examinations of the Central Midwives Board will be held in London and Bristol on February 13th. The Oral Examinations follow a few days later in each case.

HEALTH POSTERS.

The two next posters issued by the National League for Physical Education and Improvement will show the dangers arising from unguarded fire-places and from clothing made of inflammable kinds of flannelette, and the evils of push-carts when used for very young children.

THE BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN AND MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

Now that the Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Women has assumed the responsibility of the Maternity Hospital, which has had a deficit of several hundreds of pounds, it is making great efforts to increase its income, and the organizers of the ball which was held at the end of last year, and who have just issued their report, have made the satisfactory announcement that a profit of £279 16s. 9d. was the result. This has been raised to £300 by an anonymous friend.

The ball was arranged by the Moseley branch of the Women's Hospital League, and held at the Grand Hotel. The only drawback seems to have been that its friends came so well to its assistance that the room was too full for dancing. Four hundred and fifty tickets were sold, and a hundred more refused. It is hoped to make the event an annual fixture.

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