

The Midwife.

POST-GRADUATE WEEK AT THE MATERNITY NURSING ASSOCIATION.

The first Post-Graduate course held by the Maternity Nursing Association—whose headquarters are at 63, Myddleton Square, E.C., proved a distinct success.

The Committee of that Association have for some years past felt that they would like to arrange to have past nurses back, at prescribed intervals, for a few days at least, to help them to keep in touch with the latest midwifery methods, which, like all other scientific subjects, are constantly being improved upon.

Many nurses availed themselves of the kind invitation, which reached them in plenty of time to enable them to arrange for their holidays, or leave of absence, for the few days set aside for the course.

On Monday, June 24th, the nurses were received by certain members of the committee and staff, and after tea assembled for the first lecture, which was most ably given by Dr. Bright Bannister, on "Hæmorrhage."

Each morning the nurses accompanied the midwives on their district work, and so were able to see the present nurses at work in the patients' homes. They were also allowed to attend a case with a midwife if they chose.

On Tuesday afternoon there was a lecture given on "Sanitation" by Mrs. Greenwood, sanitary inspector for Finsbury, and in the evening an up-to-date lecture on "Infant Feeding" by Dr. Bannister was much appreciated.

Wednesday was the great day of the week, although there were no lectures, as on this day the annual re-union of past and present nurses was held.

The "At Home" began at 3 o'clock, when nurses who had been scattered to all parts of the country met and joined forces again. Many ladies of the Committee and their friends were present at the large party in the garden, where tea was served at 4.30.

At 5.30 everyone assembled at All Saints Mission, where a special service was held by the Rev. T. Preedy. The little church was well filled with happy nurses in in-door and out-door uniforms, who were reminded of the high calling of their work and the good they could do wherever they went.

On Thursday, after the morning district work and an early lunch, the visitors were taken to Shakespeare City at Earl's Court, which outing far exceeded their expectations, and was thoroughly appreciated.

Home again on top of a 'bus to the last of the series of lectures by Dr. Bannister. This time on "Sepsis," when a hearty vote of thanks was given

to Miss Blunt (the Hon. Treasurer and Chairman), the Committee, the Matron and staff, and Dr. Bannister for arranging and carrying through the programme which had proved so enjoyable to all.

L. S.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

THE REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE TRAINING OF MIDWIVES.

The Board has recently had under consideration several cases of the improper signing of the schedules of examination candidates by those engaged in the training of pupils. The necessity of literal compliance with the rules laid down by the Board for regulating the training of pupil midwives appears to be imperfectly appreciated by some of those to whom the Board has accorded permission to carry on the work of training. The certificates of training required from candidates for examination (Rules, Schedule, Forms III, IV, and V) are explicit in language and plain in intention, and afford no reasonable ground for misapprehension of their effect.

In particular the Board desires to emphasize some points which have been disregarded in the signing of some recent certificates.

(1) Responsibility for the truth of a certificate attaches to the signer from the moment of signature. To certify that a pupil has personally delivered or nursed twenty cases, or has attended fifteen lectures, when in fact she has not done so *before the signing of the certificate*, is to make an untrue statement, and none the less so though the pupil completes her cases or lectures before the day of the examination.

(2) "Three months" (Rule C. 1 (3) and Schedule Form V) means *three calendar months*, and not twelve weeks, or any other period of time.

(3) The minimum number of fifteen lectures is to be spread as evenly as possible over the minimum period of three months. Under no circumstances may more than one lecture in one day be counted.

(4) Demonstrations—however helpful to the pupil—are not to be counted as lectures.

(5) No lecture should be for a shorter period than forty-five minutes at the least.

(6) It is highly desirable that every person responsible for the training of pupils should see that each pupil reads over and understands, before she begins her training, the whole of the schedule which she has to countersign at the end of her training.

As the training of examination candidates is subject to the approval of the Board, it is hoped that this intimation will prove sufficient to prevent future irregularities.

G. W. DUNCAN,
Secretary.

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