

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

THE NEXT EXAMINATION.

The next examination of the Central Midwives Board will be held in London on December 16th, 1912. The Oral Examination will follow a few days later.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF INFANT MORTALITY.

An organization with the above title has been formed under the leadership of Sir Thomas Barlow. At a meeting of the Women Pharmacists' Association Dr. C. W. Saleeby stated that the object of the Association is to secure the fullest advantage to the mother and the baby of the Maternity Benefit under the National Insurance Act, and to look after the child until it is of school age.

THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL AND THE MATERNITY BENEFIT.

The General Medical Council has forwarded a memorandum to the National Insurance Commissioners, and has issued a report, prepared by a Committee, dealing with the possible effect of the Insurance Act on the education of students of midwifery. The Council apprehends that the regulations for the administration of maternity benefit may, unless suitably framed, have an adverse effect on the educational functions of lying-in hospitals and maternity institutions and has incorporated certain suggestions in its memorandum with the object of obviating this danger.

The first possible effect with which the memorandum deals is that women who enter the above hospitals for their confinements may forfeit their right to maternity benefit, and will not therefore seek admission. In that case the work of the training of students and pupil midwives will lapse. The Committee of the General Medical Council consider that if suitable regulations are framed this difficulty may be overcome. They are also of opinion that the regulations should be so framed as to recognize the certificate of the responsible official of an outdoor maternity institution concerned with training students and midwives as fulfilling the requirements of the Act in respect of the payment of maternity benefit. The Commissioners have promised to give these suggestions their serious consideration.

We have on several occasions expressed the opinion that during the short period in which pupil midwives are being prepared for the examination of the Central Midwives Board their work should be under constant supervision, and they should in all cases be accompanied by a certified midwife when attending outdoor cases; both for the safety of the patient, and because the lessons of the case are to a great extent lost if a teacher is not at hand to explain them. The same applies to the education of medical students, and they would gain materially in practical know-

ledge, if it is impossible for them to be directly supervised by registered medical practitioners, if they were accompanied by certified midwives. We hope that the Insurance Commissioners will protect the insured women, and keep up the value of the Maternity Benefit offered by limiting it to assistance rendered by, or in the presence of, qualified practitioners and certified midwives.

A CELEBRATED TRAINING SCHOOL.

The Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, stands in the very front rank of training schools for midwives, and those who are fortunate enough to be educated within its walls always look back with pride to their connection with it. Pupils are prepared for the examination of the Central Midwives Board.

THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND.

The Countess of Aberdeen, writing from Vice-regal Lodge, Dublin, to Boards of Guardians, on behalf of the Women's National Health Association of Ireland, states that, as the death rate amongst women in child-birth, in Ireland, is considerably higher than in Great Britain; and considering that the Midwives' Registration Act does not apply to Ireland—that if a Board of Guardians appoints a midwife for a dispensary district, having the qualifications laid down by the Insurance Commissioners (presumably the qualification of certified midwife under the Midwives Act of England and Wales), then the Women's National Health Association will endeavour, through its branches, and through special committees to be formed, to provide extra salary, sufficient to bring up such midwife's salary to £1 a week, with bicycle and allowance for uniform, on certain conditions.

It appears to us unlikely that certified midwives will be found in any numbers willing to work for this pittance. The duties required of midwives are most onerous, the professional skill (if they are to be safe attendants on mother and baby), of a high quality, the anxieties incident to the practice of their profession manifold. For a professional worker—health visitor and educationalist, as well as midwife—the salary should be at least £2 a week.

THE BABY'S CORD.

In the Philippine Islands a contemporary states the baby's cord is cut by the midwife, without any regard to asepsis. The cord is cut long enough to reach the baby's mouth, because it is believed that by this means it will be lucky, and will have good fortune, and that food never will be lacking. Some midwives use bolos for cutting the cord under the belief that by this practice the baby will be a warrior. Some do not use a sharp instrument, but sever the cord by burning it in the light of the candle. The cord is dressed with Chinese paper, or any old cloth with a hole cut in the middle for the insertion of the stump. The cord-dressing is powdered with tobacco ashes.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)