

BABYLAND.

Have you heard of the Valley of Babyland?  
The realm where the dear little darlings stay  
Till the kind storks go, as all men know,  
And oh! so tenderly bring them away?  
The paths are winding and past all finding  
By all save the storks who understand  
The gates and the highways and the intricate  
byways  
That lead to Babyland.

All over the Valley of Babyland  
Sweet flowers bloom in the soft green moss,  
And under the ferns fair, and under the plants  
there,  
Lie little heads like spools of floss.  
With a soothing number the river of slumber  
Flows o'er a bedway of silver sand;  
And angels are keeping watch o'er the sleeping  
Babes of Babyland.

The path to the Valley of Babyland  
Only the kingly, kind storks know;  
If they fly over mountains or wade through  
fountains,  
No man sees them come or go.  
But an angel maybe, who guards some baby,  
Or a fairy, perhaps, with her magic wand  
Brings them straightway to the wonderful gateway  
That leads to Babyland.

And there in the Valley of Babyland,  
Under the mosses and leaves and ferns,  
Like an unfledged starling, they find the darling,  
For whom the heart of a mother yearns.  
And they lift him lightly, and snug him tightly  
In feathers soft as a lady's hand.  
And off with a rockaway step they work away  
Out of Babyland.

As they go from the Valley of Babyland  
Forth into the world of great unrest,  
Sometimes in weeping he wakes from sleeping  
Before he reaches his mother's breast.  
Ah! how she blesses him, how she caresses him!  
Bonniest bud in the bright homeland,  
That o'er land and water the kind stork brought  
her  
From far-off Babyland.

There is a popular saying that in the house  
over which the stork builds its nest the mother  
never dies in childbirth—so may it be where  
the York Road "storks" go.

We see the stork, then, as a "bringer of  
good," tender to the young and aged, full of  
natural affection, with a high standard of  
morals; a valuable assistant to the sanitary  
authorities, warmly welcomed in its periodic  
visits, faithful to its old haunts, punctual,  
gentle, spirited if wronged. York Road, then,  
has well-chosen "the stork" as an emblem  
for the midwives trained there.

M. O. H.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, November 21st, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

REPORT OF PENAL CASES COMMITTEE.

Final reports, requested by the Board from the Local Supervising Authorities, were received in nine cases. On the recommendation of the Penal Cases Committee, it was decided to take no further action in seven cases. In the remaining two, as the reports were unsatisfactory, it was decided to cite the midwives to appear before the Board.

Interim reports were received in seven cases. In one it was decided to cite the midwife to appear before the Board; and in another, to adjourn the case for further information.

A letter was considered from the Governor of H.M. Prison at Leeds, notifying the conviction of a certified midwife at the Barnsley Borough Petty Sessions, for assault; and that she had been sentenced to ten days' hard labour, or a fine of 3s. It was decided to cite the midwife to appear before the Board.

On the recommendation of the Penal Cases Committee, it was decided to cite thirty midwives to appear before the Board, making thirty-two in all.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

The following letters were considered:

(1) From the Secretary of the Monmouthshire Training Centre for Midwives, reporting that a false reference from the Matron of the Monmouthshire Maternity Home had been given by a certified midwife, with the view of obtaining a position at the King Edward VII. Hospital, Windsor. The Standing Committee recommended:

"That the facts be laid before the local police, and that, failing action by them, the matter be laid before the Public Prosecutor; and that, failing action by him, the matter be referred to the Penal Cases Committee."

Mr. Parker Young moved the following amendment, which was seconded by Miss Paget, that—  
"As this is a case which is punishable at law, the two institutions be informed accordingly."

The amendment was lost, and the recommendation of the Standing Committee adopted.

(2) From Dr. J. C. Heaven, Acting Inspector of Midwives for Bristol, enquiring whether an un-certified woman, practising as a midwife who makes no special charge for her services, but accepts whatever her patient likes to give her, is practising as a midwife for gain and consequently within the terms of Section 1 (2) of the Midwives Act, 1902.

It was decided to reply that the answer be that the question raised has not yet been settled in law; and that the only way to settle it is by instituting a prosecution under the Act, Section 1 (2).

(3) From the Hon. Secretary of the Norwich Maternity Charity, submitting the applications of Dr. Arthur Crook and Dr. Ernest Bertram Hinde,

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