

THE ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING THE TRAINING AND SUPPLY OF MIDWIVES.

A meeting of the Council of the above Association was held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Thursday, November 28th. Princess Christian was announced to preside, but wrote expressing her regret at being unable to do so. The chair was taken by Sir George Fordham; and, on his motion, the following new members of the Council were elected: The Bishop of Barking, the Bishop of Southwark, Lady Parker, Mrs. Leverton Harris, and Dr. Christopher Addison, M.P.

Mrs. Wallace Bruce then presented the Report on the general work of the Association. The work, she said, had been uneventful, consisting principally in training, and watching over the interests of midwives.

The Association had now trained some 160 midwives, who kept in close touch with the office. The Secretary, Miss Ford, succeeded most admirably in securing their confidence. The Association had published a leaflet for mothers, addressed to working women, which could be obtained through the office, Dacre House, Dean Farrar Street, S.W.; and also the speech made by Mrs. von Glehn at the summer meeting. There was a strong tendency to evade the Act in the Eastern Counties, and to employ untrained women professedly acting as nurses under doctors.

In Chesterfield there had been an agreement among the doctors, that their services must be retained in midwives' cases by the payment of a fee of 5s., otherwise they would not attend.

At the recent meeting of the General Medical Council, this action had been strongly condemned.

The Council had thought hard and worked hard in relation to the National Insurance Act, but, as they were not employers of labour, it did not directly affect them. They were indebted to Miss Ford for the careful study she had made of the Act.

Miss Lorent Grant (Acting Treasurer) then presented the Financial Statement. Their golden nest-egg for training purposes was melting, and they must, she said, obtain more, or the training of pupils would have to be reduced. They had, however, received two unexpected donations from the Goldsmiths' and Skinners' Companies.

Miss Lucy Robinson gave an interesting account of the work done at the East Ham Home, which, she said, increased in usefulness every year. The large experience gained in the district was most useful to the pupils subsequently. They were deeply interested in their work, and the Association was indebted to those who trained them for their enthusiasm and zeal.

Mr. Fremantle (County Medical Officer of Health for Hertfordshire) then spoke on the organisation of midwifery in the Counties. In the course of his remarks he spoke of the tendency towards a falling-off in the supply of midwives; and the question of salaries was one which must be considered in the

future. For the ordinary nurse and ordinary midwife in the counties, there was no inducement to take up the work, except from motives of philanthropy.

Referring to the Insurance Act, Mr. Fremantle said it was still uncertain how the Maternity Benefit would be distributed. He hoped it would be paid over to the individual, and that the midwives would then get their share. Unless local Associations were on the alert, all the work would pass to the Insurance Committees to arrange.

In his concluding remarks, Sir George Fordham pointed out that on each Insurance Committee the Commissioners had placed one midwife. He hoped she was going to be an intelligent sentinel.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chair and Mr. Fremantle, proposed by Miss Amy Hughes and seconded by Miss Alice Gregory.

AN EFFECTIVE CRIB WARMER.

A contemporary describes an effective crib-warmer, in use in the Presbyterian Hospital, New York. The sides of the bassinet in which the baby lies are covered with asbestos boards, and beneath is an electric heater or foot-warmer, with cable-couplings and switch, which allows the current to be regulated. In a warm air-chamber, between the bassinet and the foot-warmer, is a partition, so constructed with reference to the baby's position in the crib that the heat is reflected to the lower end of the bassinet. The child's feet are thus kept warm, while a lower temperature is maintained at the head.

THE BRITISH HOSPITAL FOR MOTHERS AND BABIES.

With the approval of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London and the Charity Commissioners, an amalgamation of the British Lying-in Hospital with the Home for Mother and Babies, Woolwich, has been provisionally arranged under the combined title of the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies. The sub-title of the latter institution—National Training School for District Midwives—will be retained, and the joint hospital will occupy a new building shortly to be erected at Woolwich.

The new Hospital will have some 30 beds, and the special features connected with its work will be (a) the admission of a limited number of cases where pregnancy is complicated by disease or otherwise, and consequently the patients would not be admitted to general or maternity hospitals, but these cases of complication are to be in a separate block from that where the ordinary maternity cases are to be treated; (b) the admission for a long period of prematurely born infants requiring special treatment; (c) a longer and better training of midwives and monthly nurses than is now given at maternity hospitals, with special attention to the training of district midwives; and (d) through the district midwives and others to spread a better knowledge of the care and feeding of infants.

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