

The last measure of note is the purification of the mother, which took place upon the fortieth day after confinement. This is so steeped in myth and symbolism as to hide the real medical facts, but, looking backward, one must agree that "*There is nothing new under the sun.*"

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

The written Examination of the Central Midwives Board will be held in London on Monday, December 16th. The whole week is a busy one so far as the Board is concerned. We give below a list of fixtures.

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES.

December 16th.—Written Examination of Central Midwives Board in London.

December 18th.—Special Penal Meeting of Central Midwives to deal with all penal cases and applications ready for hearing so far as time allows.

December 19th.—Monthly Meeting of Central Midwives Board.

December 20th.—Oral Examination of Candidates for admission to the Roll in London.

December 21st.—Special Penal Meeting of Central Midwives Board.

GOOD WORK APPRECIATED.

The following resolution, moved by Mr. Savage, and seconded by Dr. McKenna, has been passed by the Belfast Board of Guardians :

That the Board of Guardians express their appreciation of the services rendered by the Medical Staff, Lady Superintendent of Infirmary and Assistant Superintendent of Maternity Hospital, for their efforts in training the nurses under their care so efficiently as to enable such a high percentage of those who enter to pass the C.M.B. examination.

That the thanks of the Board be passed to the Infirmary Committee and its Chairman, Mr. D. W. Elliott, for the excellent system of training which is now in operation, and which was introduced by that Committee.

It is always pleasant to have good work appreciated.

A GOOD PLAY FOR A GOOD CAUSE.

The play by Mr. Arnold Bennett, "*What the Public Want,*" which will be presented at the Royal Court Theatre on the evenings of December 16th and 17th, by the members of the Romany Amateur Dramatic Club, should be well attended, for it is in aid of the funds of the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, S.E., so the public can both enjoy a good play and help a good cause. Tickets may be obtained from the box-office at the theatre and from the Secretary at the hospital.

MIDWIVES ON INSURANCE COMMITTEES.

The Midwives Institute, in a letter signed by Miss Amy Hughes, President, Miss Rosalind Paget (Hon. Treasurer), and Miss R. P. Fynes-Clinton (Hon. Secretary), have communicated with the midwives' representatives on the various insurance committees, concerning matters of vital importance to the practising midwives. The letter points out that these representatives are the sentinels who are guarding the interests both of midwives and their patients, and that they only are able to give warning of impending action calculated to affect those interests, and invites them to give prompt warning to the Institute as to any proposals made, or decisions come to by their committees which in any way affect the allocation of the maternity benefit, or directly or indirectly the profession of midwifery.

The letter lays special stress on the importance of upholding the freedom of contract between the midwife and her patient, and the inadvisability of specifying a fixed fee for the midwife. It asks the representatives to endeavour to dispel the misapprehension that insured persons will not receive the maternity benefit unless they employ a doctor, to bear in mind that midwives attend 50 per cent of the total number of births in England, and from 65 to 85 per cent of the class that will be insured, and to support any proposals for insuring for the doctor's fee. It points out that in the past midwives have been most inadequately paid and have done much charity work, and that the position and function of the midwife of the future depends chiefly on the action now taken by the Insurance Committees.

A MATERNITY ALLOWANCE BILL.

The Maternity Allowance Bill of the Australian Labour Government, which provides for the presentation by the State out of consolidated revenue funds of £5 to every mother of a live child, which was introduced by Prime Minister Fisher, has passed its third reading in the Lower House, and been forwarded to the Senate, from which it is expected to emerge unchanged. The Bill provides for the appointment of a Commissioner, who, subject to the control of the Minister, will be charged with the execution of the Act. The Bill applies to every woman who, after the commencement of the Act, gives birth to a child either in Australia or on board a ship proceeding from one part of territory in the Commonwealth to another part of territory in the Commonwealth. Where more than one child is born at a birth only one allowance is payable. Where the child is not born alive, or dies within twelve hours of its birth, a medical certificate that the child was viable is required. Asiatics, aboriginal natives of Australia, Papua, and the Islands of the Pacific are excluded from the benefits of the Bill. In the event of the death of the mother the Commissioner is to decide to whom the maternity allowance shall be paid.

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