

The Midwife.

BEQUEST FOR MATERNITY NURSING.

Subject to his wife's life interest, Mr. Henry Seymour Trower, of Weybridge, for thirteen years chairman of the Navy League, has left £10,000 to form a "Women's Aid Fund" to assist pregnant married or unmarried women with medical care and nursing before, during, and after confinement, so as to ensure, as far as may be, their safe delivery and their restoration to health and strength, and to assist them afterwards in the rearing of their offspring. He states:—"I am sincerely desirous that some of the money I may leave behind me should do women some little good, and if it suffices to some extent to soothe a moral pain and dry a few bitter tears, the money will not have been earned by me entirely in vain. . . . I am especially anxious that expecting mothers should have skilled care in the critical weeks which precede confinement, and that they be nursed until really strong enough to resume their avocations." The fund is to be administered by Mrs. Caroline Huth, Mrs. Margaret Samson, Mrs. Edith Weathered, Mrs. Sophia Allen, and Mr. Frederick Morris, the hon. secretary of the Marylebone Branch of the Charity Organization Society.

So far as we are aware this is the first bequest of the kind made by a man.

A BABY SHOW AT CURRY MALLET.

In connection with a bazaar held recently in aid of the Hatch Beauchamp District Nursing Association, Somerset, a baby show was organised by Miss Cook, a Queen's Nurse, and others interested. About forty babies of ages varying from four weeks to twenty-three months were entered for it, many of them having been "borned" by the nurse. Mrs. Crossley opened the bazaar, and offered a prize of one guinea for the baby judged by Miss du Sautoy, the County Superintendent, to be the best, and the Hon. Secretary, the Hon. Mrs. Gore-Langton, gave another 30s. in prizes for the babies who obtained the most votes.

MAORI NURSE-MIDWIVES.

The Department of Hospitals and Charitable Aid at Wellington, New Zealand, have organized a system of nursing for Maoris by European and Maori nurses, preference being given to Maoris who have shown their ability for nursing. In the event of its being necessary to appoint two nurses for the natives of any particular district it will, if possible, be arranged that one nurse shall be a European and the other a native.

The nurses are appointed and paid by the

Department, and are under the control of the Hospital Board of the District to which they are sent. Those appointed must be midwives as well as nurses, and their first duty will be to attend on the natives, but they will be also expected to attend on Europeans in case of emergency. Amongst the duties enjoined upon them are to advise expecting native women, and, where possible, to attend them in their confinements. To pay special attention to the feeding of native children, and to advise the mothers accordingly. To keep as far as possible a record of the births and deaths of natives in their district. They are also required to report on the sanitary condition of the kaingas, and the prevalence of sickness therein, and to pay visits of inspection to the native schools, their reports being subsequently transmitted to the Education Department.

THE PROTECTION OF MATERNITY IN FRANCE.

The *Englishwoman* for the present month contains a most interesting article, over the signature "Juliette Heale," on the Protection of Maternity in France, in which the writer says:—

"How best to deal with destitute and very poor mothers is the greatest problem of modern civilization. The welfare of a race is largely influenced by its treatment of unprotected maternity, not only on account of the women themselves, but for their infants, the citizens of the future, whose birth and incessant needs create the pitiable helplessness of motherhood. If not wholly destitute, a very large proportion of mothers in great communities hover ever on the borderland of destitution, because, being the only servants of the State whose quite indispensable work commands no pecuniary reward, they have to look chiefly to others for their means of subsistence, while they loyally perform their primary duties. Moreover, mothers are the 'eternally wounded' of the human army. In war, the vast majority of the soldiers come out of action without a scratch; but a mother cannot quit her battlefield without a wound, which leaves her enfeebled for many weeks afterwards, quite apart from the ceaseless care she has to devote to another life.

"The Poor Law of England, we are told, is very shortly to be overhauled and entirely re-organised. Let the nation see to it that the claims of the destitute and poverty-stricken mothers receive adequate attention. In our present callous neglect of destitute motherhood, from a national point of view, we yearly throw thousands of new-born lives on the scrap-heap, and we enfeeble tens of thousands who just manage to survive. Poor Law

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