

he has of sterilising his hands he may or may not wear gloves; if he has not this faith, then the wearing of gloves or not will make no difference; for in midwifery work above all other it frequently happens that a hole may be torn in the glove, and unless the hand inside it is absolutely sterile the glove will have been useless.

To my mind, the great advantage of rubber gloves in surgical work is that you can by their means protect your hands from sources of infection. The method that will be used for cleansing the skin of the patient you must decide for yourselves. Personally I am a great believer in thorough scrubbing with a sterilised loofah with soap and hot water, followed by vigorous rubbing with a dry, sterilised towel, then a thorough rubbing with methylated spirits, to be followed finally by rubbing with a solution of mercury biniodide (1 in 500) in 75 per cent. of methylated spirits. I think I am right in saying that Mr. Leedham Green's experiments on sterilising the hands have shown that this method gives the best results.

After what I have said, is there anything else that we can think of that will help in the prevention of puerperal fever?

I do not think it is a dream impossible of fulfilment that every woman at the commencement of labour shall have an injection of the vaccine of a *Streptococcus puerperalis*, thus rendering her immune beforehand to the infection by this germ. This, at any rate, would render her immune in 70 or 80 per cent. of the cases. Further consideration even might lead an enthusiast to inject also a vaccine prepared from the *Bacillus coli*.

## THE ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING THE TRAINING AND SUPPLY OF MIDWIVES.

Mrs. Von Glehn presided at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives, of which Queen Alexandra is Patron, and which was held on Friday, July 5th, at 4, Prince's Gardens, S.W., by kind invitation of Lady Schwann, when a short address was given to the midwives present by Mrs. Wallace Bruce.

The feature of the afternoon was the presentation of Badges to the midwives who have earned them, by Lady St. Davids, after testimony to the value of their work had been read by Miss Lucy Robinson, sent by those acquainted with it in the localities in which they are engaged.

Lady St. Davids said that it is always delightful to be present on a Prize Day, and she considered it a privilege to be there that day. She was glad to know of the high ideals upheld by the Association. In such work midwives needed the gift of sympathy which enabled them to feel the pain and the gladness of others. The best characters were hand made, head made and heart made, and if any felt they had not attained perfection in all those respects they need not be discouraged but begin that day to work towards it. Referring to the rural districts Lady St. Davids said she had

engaged a Queen's Nurse for work in a district in which she was interested, and the nurse told her there was nothing to do. She told her to enjoy herself. Ten days later a babe was born on a distant hill, and before the nurse had finished her attendance there she was called to attend a case of triplets. She then said she could not stay as the work was too hard. Midwives should bathe their minds in the grandeur, the mystery, and the sacredness of birth. In this country nearly all the attention was focussed on death. Midwives, those social angels of mercy, should constantly keep before them the real meaning of the birth of a babe.

"Upon the hour when I was born,  
God said: 'Another man shall be';  
And the Great Maker did not scorn,  
Out of Himself to fashion me."

Midwives and nurses knew the tragedy as well as the joy underlying the mystery of birth. The parents might not have been good, and the babes might suffer for their former sin. Lady St. Davids said that her own service to the cause of nursing originated in her sympathy for the blind when she learnt that two thirds of the cases of blindness were due to want of care. It was the sacred mission of trained women to preserve the gift of sight to the babes in their charge.

The present century would be associated with flying—flying by motor, flying through the air. Midwives might have a flight all their own, a flight of imagination to that happier time when every babe should come into a heritage of health, hope and happiness.

Lady St. Davids then proceeded to distribute the Badges. She said that she was delighted to find amongst the recipients two nurses working under the South Wales Nursing Association with which she is connected.

The following midwives, the majority of whom were present, and warmly applauded, received their Badges:—

### BADGES.

Miss Kathleen Archer, working at Legrave, Luton; Mrs. Mary Cargill, at Newcastle-on-Tyne; Miss Nellie Clewley, at Braywood and Windsor; Mrs. Patience Collinge, at Appleton, Abingdon; Miss Kate Downes, at Luton; Miss Ethel Elliott, at Dumbleton, near Evesham; Miss Verna Jessop, at Burton Latimer, Northants; Miss Bertha Johnson, at Towcester; Miss Dorothy Johnson, at Stroud; Miss Mabel Long, at South Molton, Devon; Miss Caroline Field, at Aldingbourne, Sussex; Mrs. Marion May, at Selworthy, Somerset; Miss Ethel Nidd, at Grayshott and Shottermill; Miss Lillian Pegg, at Berriew, Mon.; Miss Lillian Rumble, at Stanford-in-the-Vale, Berks; Miss Esther Savage, at St. Albans; Mrs. Anne Thomas, at Bwlch, Brecon; Mrs. Antonia Westerman, at New Shildon, Durham; Mrs. Alice Woodward, at Cromer.

### CERTIFICATES.

Certificates were also returned to the following District Midwives, who have worked for two years since their training:—Mrs. Mabel Allen,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)