

if each patient paid the midwife 1s. on booking, leaving the midwife's fee only to be paid out of the Maternity Benefit. We believe there would be no difficulty about this if the midwife explained the reason and advantage of the payment, and it might be extended to insure all patients, not only those who benefit under the Insurance Act. Otherwise the midwife loses 1s. on every case, in order to indemnify Friendly Societies against risk, possibly more, as the Committee reserves the right to increase the payment should the 1s. prove insufficient. Nor is this the only expense, as midwives who have not already joined the Institute must become members before they are eligible to join its insurance scheme.

It remains to be seen whether quarterly payments from the Midwives Institute will satisfy the medical practitioners called in. It has been the practice of many hitherto to require their fees before crossing the threshold of the house in this class of case.

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

The Ninth Annual Meeting of the above Society will be held on Friday, March 14th, at the Central Buildings, Westminster, at 12 (noon). H.R.H. Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein will be in the chair; and a short address will be given on "Midwifery and the Maternity Benefit," by Christopher Addison, Esq., M.P., M.D.

#### ASSOCIATION OF INSPECTORS OF MIDWIVES.

The annual meeting of the Association of Inspectors of Midwives will be held during the week of the Midwifery Conference and Exhibition, to be held in London during April. The precise date of the meeting will be announced later. Miss du Sautoy will be obliged if any Inspectors or Assistant Inspectors who wish to become members will communicate with her at 10, Bold Square, Chester.

#### THE MATERNITY SIDE OF DISTRICT NURSING.

At the annual meeting of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for District Nursing at Torquay, where the staff consists of the Superintendent, Miss Alice Lee-Smith, and four Queen's nurses, Deaconess Cheveley, who moved the adoption of the report, bore testimony, from personal experience, to their excellent work amongst the poor. The Hon. Lady Acland, who gave an address on "The Maternity Side of District Nursing," pointed out the advantages which would accrue by the district nurse also acting as midwife, and said there were very few cases in which the trained midwife was not welcomed. She suggested that maternity work should be taken up by the Torquay Association, and said that once this was done they would

wonder why such a step had not been taken long ago.

Miss Booker (Inspector of Midwives to the Devon County Council) said there was only one trained midwife in Torquay, and four or five untrained midwives at work. She urged that subscriptions should be obtained, to enable them to have a trained midwife at once. We hope this means a Queen's Nurse who is also a certified midwife.

#### CAN IT BE?

Lady Fortescue at the annual meeting of the Devon Nursing Association at Exeter, said she was sorry to hear that in many cases neither the wife, nurse, nor the doctor saw a farthing of the 30s. maternity benefit under the Insurance Act.

It had gone into the husband's pocket and had been spent entirely on himself.

The 30s. was doubtless a great temptation for any husband with no ideas of unselfishness or sense of right and wrong.

#### NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

It was reported at the Annual Court of the Governors of the Maternity Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne that eleven nurses and twenty-six students have received training at the hospital during the year. The report further states that the thanks of the Committee are due to the matron for her increasing zeal in promoting the work of the hospital. The Committee have carefully considered the question of the effect of the maternity benefit section of the National Insurance Act on the hospital. It has been decided, in order to give the hospital the required legal standing as far as training of students and nurses is concerned, to appoint two certificated nurses to attend patients at their homes, and arrangements will be made as far as possible to obtain from the approved societies contributions on behalf of the patients attended. Patients receiving the benefits of the hospital will also be asked to pay a contribution towards the expenses out of their maternity benefit.

We presume the certificated nurses referred to are also certified midwives.

#### LEEDS MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

Miss Caroline March, President of the Board of the Leeds Maternity Hospital, and other officers are appealing through the Press for support for a special effort to be made this year. They say that the good work done by the hospital for poor married women in their need, and as the successful training school for midwives in the West Riding of Yorkshire, is admitted on all hands to be most valuable. The Lord Mayor gives kind sympathy and practical help. Donations may be sent to Miss Caroline March, Beech Grove House, Leeds; or to Mrs. John Marshall, Sandfield, Headingley, Leeds.

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