

The amendment of the National Insurance Act which, as we last week reported, makes provision that the maternity benefit shall be paid direct to the mother will, we may hope, do much to remedy these abuses.

In reply to a critic who is disgusted that he urges the saving of infancy in relation to Imperialism, Dr. Saleeby concludes his reply with the following words:—

“If he would learn why these islands may be loved, let him ask who, in one century alone, gave chloroform and carbolic acid and modern nursing to mankind, let him think of Britain as I believe her and would have her to be, the Pilot of Peoples; and know, as I do, that though geology will have its say, and she will one day be yet again the home of seaweed and deep sea fishes, while argosies of other peoples sail over her watery tomb, her Kelvin's compass will guide them, her Shakespeare exalt, her Simpson assuage, her Lister heal, her Newton teach, and her Nightingale inspire.”

With the work of Sir James Simpson, Sir Joseph Lister, and Miss Florence Nightingale, and its beneficent results, midwives come into intimate relation every time they enter a sick-room.

THE MOTHER'S BENEFIT.

In reference to the proposed recognition of the 30s. Maternity Benefit under the National Insurance Act, as the property of the mother, the Women's Co-operative Guild state that “if the receipt of the woman for the benefit is usually to be taken, the administrative difficulties which have been raised as regards the payment to her are obviously not insuperable. If, on the other hand, the receipt of the man is usually to be taken, our previous criticisms hold good. These are that the woman will not be protected in the cases where she most needs it, or where a part of the money is spent before it is handed to her, the woman's ease of mind will not be secured, approved societies' officials will be called on to discriminate as regards the character of husband and wife, and possibilities of serious friction in the home will be created.

“Therefore, we earnestly appeal to the House of Commons to endorse the decision of the Standing Committee, which secures the money to the wife, both legally and actually.”

WEST CORNWALL NURSES AND MIDWIVES.

A joint meeting of the National Union of Trained Nurses, and the Midwives' Association took place at Glynarth, Truro, on Wednesday. After the business of the committee was over the general meeting was held under the trees on the lawn, and was presided over by the Lady Margaret Boscawen, of Tregye.

Dr. Nicholls, St. Ives, chairman of the Cornwall Midwives' Act Committee, spoke on the pro-

fessional spirit among midwives in an address which was most helpful and encouraging, throwing light on many difficult points.

Dr. Roper, County tuberculosis officer, gave an address which will long be remembered. It explained clearly and simply the ways in which people could be taught to fight against tuberculosis by proper care to their own conditions of health and necessary precautions. Nurses and midwives throughout the county could do most valuable work in this respect. He also emphasised the importance of pure air by day and night. There was the special power which a nurse possessed of being able to influence perverse people in the methods of preventing infection for their own safety, for that of those dear to them, as well as for their neighbour. The district nurse would be an important link in the chain of organisation in the war against tuberculosis. He addressed himself to the different classes of consumptives, and the importance of treatment in the early stages, and other details.

Votes of thanks were passed to Dr. Nicholls and to Dr. Roper, and Miss Heard was thanked for her kind hospitality for providing a very pleasant afternoon to those workers who know full well how to appreciate such kindness, and a vote of thanks was passed to the chairman for presiding.

Tea was served on the lawn, and the nurses and midwives enjoyed a social chat over the teacups. Among those present besides the Lady Margaret Boscawen, of Tregye, were Mrs. Pendarves Pendarves, Mrs. Powys Rogers, of Barncoose; Miss Heard, of Truro; Miss Paul, Miss Basset, Miss Tait McKay, county nursing superintendent; Miss Chaff, Royal Cornwall Infirmary, and others, including about 50 nurses and midwives.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

The following are the questions set in the examination of the Central Midwives Board held in London on August 1st:—

1. What are the principal measurements of the foetal skull, and what is the importance of each with regard to the size of the pelvis?
2. Describe exactly how you would examine a woman in labour to determine the presentation and position of the child, and whether the pelvis is normal.
3. Describe fully the management of labour when the child presents by the breech and the delivery is uncomplicated.
4. What are the signs and symptoms of shock? What may be its causes in connection with child-birth, and how would you treat it?
5. What are the varieties of asphyxia neonatorum, and how would you treat them?
6. What are the duties of the midwife under the Rules with regard to the dangers of carrying infection to a patient?

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