

profession of nursing, cannot be considered a valid reason for including in its scope the licensing of nursing homes under professional management. The two should be quite distinct. It is, indeed, an outrage and indignity which the nursing profession rightly resents that it should be proposed to include all in the scope of one Bill.

The principle of the supervision and control of both maternity homes and nursing homes is one which this JOURNAL has consistently advocated, but proposals for legislation must be carefully considered, and as carefully examined and discussed. If the Council were to require that all maternity homes in the County of London must be in charge of a trained nurse with a maternity qualification, or of a certified midwife in order to be eligible for its licence, this would at once differentiate between the professionally managed homes and others, which could then be left for the police to deal with.

In the case of alleged incompetence or misconduct on the part of a certified midwife in charge of a home, the Council would only have to report it to her professional and disciplinary authority, the Central Midwives Board, which would then investigate the complaints, and, if proved, would censure the midwife, or remove her from the Roll. On the report of the Central Midwives Board the Council could readily decide whether or no the midwife's licence should be continued. In the case of a trained nurse the matter is not so simple because, at present, there is no professional authority to which the Council can refer in the event of her conduct being impugned. But the Council might usefully recommend to Parliament that effect shall be given without further delay to the unanimous recommendation of a Select Committee of the House of Commons in 1905 that "it is desirable that a Register of nurses shall be kept by a central body appointed by the State." It could then readily exercise effective supervision over all licensed maternity and nursing homes, and some prestige would be attached to its licence.

MIDWIVES UNDER THE NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT.

The Insurance Commissioners have issued a circular explaining the powers of approved societies under Section 21 of the Insurance Act, and have informed them that they are entitled to place at the disposal of their members, or their wives, the services of duly certified midwives, who should be paid out of the sum payable as maternity benefit to the individual members.

PROPER MATERNITY TREATMENT.

At an inquest at Belfast recently on a young woman who died of septicæmia, the jury found that death was caused by puerperal septicæmia, due to carelessness and want of skill on the part of the nurse. The coroner stated that he was determined to put down unskilful nursing, as the National Insurance Act provided for proper

maternity treatment. As the Act provides for the payment of doctor or certified midwife, presumably the Coroner referred to midwifery, not nursing.

PROSECUTION UNDER THE NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT.

For neglecting to make adequate provision for his wife during and immediately after her confinement, after receiving the maternity benefit, the husband of a woman at St. Helen's has been sentenced to 14 days' hard labour. The man, who was prosecuted at the instance of the Cheshire Miners Permanent Relief Society, gave his wife only 2s. out of the money received and was found lying drunk on her bed. The midwife had to buy milk for the patient, and the relieving officer was called in.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

The written examination of the Central Midwives Board was held on October 23rd in six centres, namely, London, Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Manchester, and Newcastle-on-Tyne. It is a great advantage to candidates to be able to attend at a centre near the school in which they were trained, and, it appears to us, the centres have been happily chosen to meet the convenience of candidates throughout the country.

EXAMINATION PAPER.

The following are the questions set at the examination:—

1. Describe the situation of the meatus urinarius and the length and direction of the urethra. Describe exactly what you would do if you had to pass a catheter on a woman in the second stage of labour.
2. You are summoned to a woman in the first stage of labour who is bleeding; state exactly what you would do.
3. State all you know about the management of twin labour.
4. What are the causes of obstructed labour, and how would you recognise them?
5. What injuries may the child receive during labour, how may they be caused, and how would you recognise them?
6. What is "Ophthalmia Neonatorum," and how is it usually caused? What are you ordered by the Rules of the Central Midwives Board to do (a) to prevent it, (b) in case it arises?

THE GLASGOW MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

A bazaar on an elaborate scale in behalf of the Glasgow Maternity and Women's Hospital, which will be opened by Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, is to be held in St. Andrew's Hall in that city on November 6th and the two following days. The debt on the hospital amounts to £28,000, and its gynæcological wards are closed. It helps annually some 5,000 women of the poorest classes, and is the only training school in obstetrics in Glasgow and the West of Scotland, so its need is urgent.

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