

Workhouse Infirmary, I. M. Dodd, E. A. Dowsett, M. Edmundson—*Woolwich Military Families' Hospital*, K. Edwards, S. M. Edwards, J. E. Evans, M. Fitchett, M. A. Fletcher—*St. Mary's Hospitals, Manchester*, E. I. Fone—*Greenwich Union Infirmary*, A. A. K. Gray—*Kingswood Nurses' Home*, M. Griffiths, S. E. Hammond, E. Hardcastle, M. H. Hicks, E. Howells, C. Hughesdon, M. E. Hutchens, S. L. Irving, G. Jack—*Edinburgh Royal Maternity Hospital*, M. E. Johnston, E. Jones, F. M. Lane, A. M. Leach—*General Lying-in Hospital*, K. P. Le Poidevin, G. B. J. Lewin—*General Lying-in Hospital*, J. Littlejohn, M. J. McAllan, A. H. Macalpine—*St. Mary's Hospitals, Manchester*, J. R. McArthur, M. McCracken, E. G. Marsden, M. W. Mason—*St. Mary's Hospitals, Manchester*, S. G. Milne, D. Muthu, M. R. Nicolle, M. A. Oakley, M. H. Offord, A. Osborne, A. E. Perry, E. Phillips, A. C. Priestley, G. A. Selman, H. V. Simmonite, E. L. Simons, A. Smith, E. E. Smith—*St. Mary's Hospitals, Manchester*, A. M. Smyth—*General Lying-in Hospital*, R. M. Stapleton, E. A. Sutcliffe—*St. Mary's Hospitals, Manchester*, F. Sutcliffe, C. Sutherland, L. J. Tabiner, G. Thompson—*Kingswood Nurses' Home*, S. A. Thompson, J. K. D. E. Wallace—*General Lying-in Hospital*, M. A. Waterhouse—*St. Mary's Hospitals, Manchester*, M. E. Whitehouse, G. H. Williams, G. Willis, C. Young.

Reports of the Meetings of the Penal Boards on November 11th and 12th, when some important cases were considered are unavoidably held over.

THE DOCTOR'S FEE IN EMERGENCY CASES.

The question of provision for the payment of an adequate fee to the medical practitioner summoned in an urgent case on the advice of a midwife is one which is long overdue for settlement. According to the rules of the Central Midwives Board the midwife in certain conditions deviating from the normal, of mother or child, must explain that the case is one in which the attendance of a registered medical practitioner is required and must fill in, and hand to the husband or nearest relative or friend present, the prescribed form. The midwife is then free from legal liability if a doctor does not respond to the summons, but this does not free her from an acute sense of responsibility if medical help does not arrive, and in many cases the life of the patient is in jeopardy until it does.

A case illustrating this point recently occurred at Waltham's Cross, where Mrs. Marshall, the certified midwife in attendance, sent urgent calls to three doctors in succession, none of whom responded, and the patient died before medical assistance was secured. At the subsequent inquest the jury commended the midwife's conduct as most satisfactory, and censured the doctors for "most inhuman conduct."

There are, however, two sides to the question. While undoubtedly membership of a profession entails moral obligations not incumbent if its commercial side only is considered, and an urgent call in a case of life and death should always meet with a response, yet medical practitioners have a legitimate grievance. Ever since the Midwives Act was passed in 1902 providing that midwives must, if necessary, summon medical help, but making no provision for securing the fee for his services to the doctor so summoned, the medical profession have been urging that such provision should be made, and the question is as far off settlement to-day as it was thirteen years ago.

Miss A. C. Lowe, Secretary to Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, and Dr. Major Greenwood, Hon. Secretary of the Poor Law Medical Officers' Association, both plead in the press for action in relation to this question, and Dr. Greenwood points out that the scandals to which Miss Lowe draws attention "are likely to be repeated unless some means are found to provide a fair remuneration for difficult services that at the present time are expected from busy practitioners gratuitously."

THE WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOCIETY AND THE L.C.C.

The council of the Women's Local Government Society has passed the following resolution unanimously: "The council of the Women's Local Government Society in annual meeting urge the London County Council not to transfer the work of the Midwives Act Committee to any committee to which women cannot legally be co-opted, but to recognise that in estimating the need for appointing a special committee, regard should be had to the character rather than to the bulk of the work to be done; and, further, this council express their strong sense of the value of the work hitherto done by the highly qualified women with expert knowledge selected by the council."

ROTUNDA HOSPITAL.

A pleasant ceremony took place at the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, at a recent general charter meeting of the Board of Governors, at which the Very Rev. the Dean of St. Patrick's presided when the Master, Dr. Jellett, presented to the Board on behalf of Dr. T. Percy C. Kirkpatrick and himself the Book of the Rotunda Hospital, when it was proposed by Sir William Watson, seconded by Sir William Goulding, and resolved—"That the best thanks of the Governors be given to Dr. Kirkpatrick and Dr. Jellett for the very able, interesting, and useful history which they have written of the hospital."

The book is the first comprehensive history which has been written of this celebrated hospital and the profits are to be given to the funds.

Dr. Kirkpatrick was elected a Governor in recognition of his services in this connection.

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