

in a midwife. She went into houses when the wife was laid up, but the man was about; and all sorts of things might happen. The Board was determined to uphold the old-fashioned standard of morality.

EXAMINATION.

The next examination of the Central Midwives Board will be held in London on December 12th. The Oral Examination will follow a few days later.

THE EQUIPMENT OF A MIDWIFE.

In connection with the recently formed Cambridgeshire Nursing Association, the following regulations were, amongst others, made at the first Council Meeting, held at the Guildhall, Cambridge, when an arrangement with the local doctors was adopted. In reference to the question that a medical man should in every case attend the midwifery:—(1) Present arrangements made between the local medical men and the existing local Nursing Associations to remain undisturbed; (2) When new local Nursing Associations formed; (a) The midwife may take cases where the wages of the husband do not exceed 15s. per week; (b) In other cases the midwife shall first obtain the consent of the usual medical attendant; (c) The midwife shall carry as part of her equipment the sum of £1 1s. to be handed to the medical practitioner on his being called to a case in compliance with the requirements of the Central Midwives' Board provided that this sum of £1 1s. be not considered as covering attendance on the infant beyond the usual attendance in a case without complications. A further sum of £1 1s. is to be paid to the medical practitioner by the parent in all cases when he is called in in compliance with the requirements of the Central Midwives Board. The Executive Committee recommended that the local associations charge the sum of 12s. 6d. for midwifery. The extra 2s. to be pooled to provide the £1 1s., as is already done in the Borough of Cambridge.

It will thus be seen that all the cases which can afford to pay go to the medical practitioners, those out of which there is nothing to be made to the Nursing Association, for no one can suppose that a man whose income does not exceed 15s. can pay a sum which will afford a midwife a living wage. While she is working for the Association she will not, of course, take personal fees, but, even if she severs her connection with it her clientele will be amongst the poorest of the poor.

It appears to us that midwives must watch very jealously the attempt to assume that their work is limited to the indigent poor. They are entitled by law to practice midwifery, irrespective of class or financial position, and should claim their right to do so. As to the midwife being compelled to carry £1 1s. as part of her equipment, surely if the local medical men are working on agreed terms with the Nursing Association, they can trust its treasurer to send a cheque subsequently should a midwife call in their services. As these

are only required in from 5 to 10 per cent. of midwives' cases the midwife may carry the guinea for some time before it is required. It may even happen to be lost when it is at length needed.

It is further very doubtful whether any midwife can lawfully be prevented from practising midwifery. If she enters into an agreement with an association not to do so she must, of course, honourably keep to her bargain, but it is questionable whether associations are wise to impose restrictions as to the practise of a profession by a woman who has earned the legal right to do so. Assuming that a midwife broke her contract, or undertook a maternity case in which a medical man did not attend, she would undoubtedly be within her legal rights.

THE GENERAL LYING-IN HOSPITAL, LAMBETH.

A sale in aid of the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, Lambeth, was held recently at the residence of the Earl and Countess of Strathmore in St. James's Square, S.W., one of the great attractions being the charm of the house in which it was held, which is one of the most perfect specimens of Adams' work, with ceilings by Angelica Kauffman.

The sale, which was organised by the Ladies' Committee, realised over £354, a most welcome addition to the funds of the institution.

MATERNITY NURSING ASSOCIATION.

Viscountess Clifden opened a Sale of Work at the Finsbury Town Hall, on Wednesday in last week on behalf of the Maternity Nursing Association, 63, Myddleton Square, Clerkenwell, which is doing such good work in a very poor neighbourhood. The Mayor of Finsbury (Mr. W. J. Corke, J.P.) showed his interest in the institution by presiding at the ceremony, and Mrs. H. B. Irving warmly commended the work of the Association from a national and humanitarian point of view. It was, she argued, not possible for mothers to know precisely what to do by instinct and without proper tuition to avoid the improper feeding of their offspring, tight bandages, sore mouths, cold feet and other conditions resulting from ignorance. The human baby was the most helpless in the world. Mrs. Irving emphasised the necessity of preventative work and the value of the maternity branch of the Association. The enlightened mother was an emissary for good, a missionary to her associates in the slums and back streets of this huge metropolis. They needed to arouse public opinion in regard to the question of maternity work and the training of mothers, upon which depended the future of our race. The Sale realised £157, an amount which quite came up to the hopes of its promoters. No institutions need more help, or earn it better by their service to the community, than well managed maternity homes.

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