

THE ASSOCIATION OF INSPECTORS OF MIDWIVES.

At a meeting of the above Association, held on December 31st, at the Midwives' Institute, 12, Buckingham Street, W.C., the following correspondence was read and discussed:

ASSOCIATION OF INSPECTORS OF MIDWIVES,
June 23rd, 1913.

To the RT. HON. JOHN BURNS, M.P.

SIR,—I have been requested to send you the following resolution, passed by the above Association at the Annual Meeting, 1913:

"This Association is keenly desirous that in those cases in which a midwife, under Rule F, is suspended by the Local Supervising Authority for a period exceeding 24 hours, compensation should be paid her according to the monetary loss sustained by her."

The Rule of the Central Midwives' Board to which this refers is appended.

A midwife, by this Rule, may be suspended in the public interest when no blame attaches to her, and during the time she is debarred from working, she may lose several cases. Now, to many of these women, the loss of even a small portion of their income is very serious; but, as suspension for more than twenty-four hours is not frequent, the amount of public money involved would be small.

As I understand that a Borough or County Council, giving the above compensation, would render itself liable to be surcharged, I have been requested to submit this appeal to you in the hope that you may be able to do something in the matter.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,
A. A. POLLARD, *Hon. Secretary.*

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD,
WHITEHALL, S.W.,
July 24th, 1913.

SIR,—I am directed by the Local Government Board to advert to your letter with reference to the question of the payment of compensation to midwives in respect to monetary loss sustained during periods of suspension from practice, under Rule F, of the Rules made by the Central Midwives Board.

I am directed to state, in reference to the last paragraph of your letter, that the Board do not find that any case, in which such a payment has been disallowed by the District Auditor, has come before them. If an appeal were received by them against such a disallowance, the Board would give consideration to all the facts of the case.

I am to express the Board's regret that the reply to your letter has been delayed.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,
THOS. PITTS, *Assistant Secretary.*

CLAPHAM MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

Her Majesty the Queen has sent a Christmas present of twenty-five pheasants from Sandringham to the Clapham Maternity Hospital. This hospital, which from its foundation has been under the direction of women physicians, is being reconstructed, and the King's Hospital Fund has this year made a special grant of £2,000 towards the cost, in addition to its usual grant to the current year's expenditure.

DISTRICT MIDWIFERY AND PROBATIONER NURSES.

The Wakefield Guardians have adopted a scheme recommended by the Infirmary Committee, under which probationers in training will under certain conditions be allowed to attend midwifery cases outside the Infirmary when requested by the district medical officers. This will enable nurses trained in the Infirmary to qualify for the certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

A lady guardian, Mrs. Reader, strongly opposed the scheme on the ground that it was injudicious to allow such extremely young women to go into undesirable environments and meet strange doctors under such circumstances.

The Chairman of the Infirmary Committee, Mr. Moorhouse, pointed out that the minimum age of their probationers was twenty-three, that they were a credit to the noble profession in which they were engaged, and that the Committee had the greatest confidence in both medical officers and nurses.

The Chairman of the Board (the Rev. W. Mahon) was of opinion that if women of twenty-three and twenty-four years of age had not the sense to look after themselves it was time the Board got rid of them.

We agree with this view. At the same time it is difficult to understand why a nurse should not meet any doctor in any environment and attend to the comfort of a patient. It is conceivable that a doctor might have, on occasions, to safeguard the nurse, though even in the most degraded localities a nurse is as a rule absolutely safe. It is inconceivable that undesirable situations should arise in relation to doctor and nurse.

PRACTICAL POINT.

TO WASH A BABY'S BOTTLE.

Never wash a baby's bottle out with soda and water; the soda is apt to corrode the surface enamel of the glass off in spots, in which you will find the milk remaining in grey specks. The best and cleanest things for cleansing the inside of bottles are the tea leaves from your last brewing of tea.—*Nursing Journal of India.*

The Carol singing by the nursing staff, at the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, this season, attended by many supporters of this famous institution, on the invitation of the Master and Lady Superintendent, was greatly appreciated by both visitors and patients.

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