

a week by ladies who take down the particulars of each case, and send the name as soon as the patient leaves to the visitor for the district in which the patient lives. The case is visited as soon as possible, and the mother advised (if necessary) as to food, right sort of bottle, value of fresh air, etc. The Committee have a small fund at their disposal, and in cases of great necessity milk tickets are given. It is found that the visiting is much looked forward to and appreciated by the mothers, and much of the advice given is gratefully followed.

There is a weekly weighing day at the hospital and the babies return to it once a month to be inspected and weighed during the first year of life; the hospital is thus taking an effective part in the prevention of infantile mortality.

An important branch of the work of the Birmingham Lying-in Charity, of which that at the Maternity Hospital is an integral part, is the district midwifery. This has recently been systematized and a Lady Superintendent of Midwives appointed under whose supervision the work is being co-ordinated.

The post is combined with that of Superintendent of the charming Hostel for Midwives, where the nursing staff of the Maternity Hospital reside, though taking their meals at the hospital, of which we recently gave an account in this JOURNAL, and the selection of Miss W. M. Hunt for this dual position seems a specially happy one. Miss Hunt was trained at the Kettering Hospital and has held the positions of Staff Nurse at the West London Hospital, Hammersmith; Labour Ward Sister at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, and Sister of the Private Wards at the London Homœopathic Hospital.

The district midwives live in rooms in different parts of the city. They are paid a salary by the Charity of £33 rising to £40 with uniform. They also receive weekly £1 for maintenance, 8s. 6d. for rent and 1s. 6d. for fires. They receive an extra sum when a pupil is boarded and lodged with them, and it is to these midwives that the pupils of the Maternity Hospital are passed on for their district training.

The hospital acts as the Birmingham centre for the examination of the Central Midwives Board, every four months, and when the Board has a two monthly examination in the Provinces as well as in London, Birmingham must surely be the first to be chosen, for a more central position could not be found, as anyone putting a finger on the centre of the map of England will discover.

Considering the useful national work done by the hospital, and the efficiency in which it is maintained it is most regrettable that it is not better supported. The adverse balance now amounts to £3,125, and the Lord Mayor stated at the recent annual meeting that it was quite evident that special measures would have to be taken to deal with the matter. We hope that the Committee will receive greatly increased financial support.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

FIXTURES FOR JUNE.

June 9th.—Penal Board. 2 p.m.

June 10th.—Penal Board. 10.30 a.m.

June 15th.—Examinations in London, Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Manchester, and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

June 18th.—Monthly Meeting of Board. 3.30 p.m.

IMPORTANT ITEMS FOR NURSES AND MIDWIVES.

HARRINGTON'S "SQUARES."

Harrington's Squares for Babies are comparatively new in this country, but they have so many merits that we feel sure they have a successful future before them. All who have the care of young children should acquaint themselves with these squares, a specimen of which, price 9d., post free, can be obtained from Harrington's, 8, Paternoster Row, London, E.C.

"COW AND GATE" MILK FOOD.

A milk food in powder form which is proving of much value as a substitute for mother's milk, when this is a necessity is the "Cow and Gate" Milk Food supplied by the West Surrey Central Dairy Co., Ltd., Guildford, Surrey, and through all the principal chemists and stores. It is readily taken by babies, and is a great boon to mothers.

NURSE CROSS' BREAST BANDAGE.

The Breast Protector and Support for Nursing Mothers designed by Nurse Cross is the outcome of her practical knowledge, and as such is to be commended to other maternity nurses and midwives. It may be obtained from drapers and chemists, or direct from Nurse Cross, 14, Portland Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, price 2s. 11d.

THE MARMET BABY CARRIAGE.

The Marmet Baby Carriage, which was awarded a Gold Medal at the recent Children's Welfare Exhibition, at Olympia, is one which will commend itself to mothers and nurses, as both comfortable and safe. The body is suspended by spiral steel springs, on a tubular steel frame, thus dispensing with bolts, rivets and straps. It is supplied by Messrs. E. T. Morriss & Co., 139, Finchley Road, Swiss Cottage.

WELFORD'S MILK PREPARATIONS.

Messrs. Welford & Sons, Ltd., of Elgin Avenue, Maida Vale, London, W., who are well known as owning the largest dairy in London, and for the facilities with which they can deliver milk of the highest quality to all parts of the metropolis, also specialise in milk preparations and nursery supplies, and it is important to nurses and midwives to know that humanized and peptonized milk, "sauermilch," butter milk, and other preparations can be obtained from this well-known firm. Also asses' milk, which is sometimes prescribed in the case of delicate babies, when breast feeding is impossible.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)