

benefit, her Society pays 30s., and no benefit is payable by the Society in which the father of her child is insured.

SALARIES OF MATERNITY NURSES.

The Guardians of the North Dublin Union are increasing the salaries of many of their officials, and amongst them their maternity nurses. The minimum is now to be £40 a year instead of £30, and when a residence is not provided, £13 a year in lieu of this.

MIGRATORY MIDWIVES.

A correspondence is proceeding in the local press in relation to the report presented by Miss F. M. Bernard Boyce, Lady Inspector and County Superintendent of Midwives under the Norfolk County Council, on "Migratory Midwives."

Miss Bernard Boyce reported that between the end of 1911 and the end of 1913, twelve midwives who received their training from the Council have left the County.

This seems to have hurt the susceptibilities both of Mr. Lee Warner, Chairman of the Norfolk Nursing Federation; and Mr. E. H. Evans-Lombe, Chairman of the Higher Education Sub-Committee.

The former writes, endeavouring to explain away the inspector's figures. Thirteen names were supplied by Miss Boyce, which he analyses as follows:—

Six paid their fines and went away.

Five stayed till their full time had expired.

Two were not trained by the County Council.

Of these one left the County before 1912, and one broke down in health. Mr. Lee Warner, apparently excluding the one who left in 1911, argues that as four midwives from other counties migrated into Norfolk, there were only two who had in any way been a loss to the County; and from this, Mr. Evans-Lombe deduces that it is "a pity that a misleading report, open to such misconception, should have been issued."

Miss Bernard Boyce's answer is that her report was "simply a statement of positive facts." There are thirteen midwives on her list. In the case of one, she thinks that only a few months' training in nursing—not midwifery—was given; that leaves twelve women without her, in the event of her not being a Council candidate.

In regard to a fine being paid by some of the midwives, she says her point was that as soon as their three years' agreement was up they took themselves off; and, in many instances, before their agreement had expired.

She added, "Mr. Lee Warner does not dispute the fact that twelve midwives had left the county during, or about, the past two years. He states that four midwives have come in from other counties, and I take it that his own statement proves all the more strongly that midwives are 'migratory,' not only from this county but from other counties also. He likewise states that the

influx of four midwives from other counties leaves only a deficit of two. This arithmetic seems rather strange, as four midwives replacing twelve who had left, according to the rules of arithmetic which I have been taught, must naturally leave a deficit of eight. In any case, what ever arguments may be brought forward, it does not alter the fact that the number of midwives have left during the time I stated."

The question of migration is an economic one, attributed by Miss Boyce to the lowness of wages. This has "alarmed the ladies who induced candidates to be trained as nurses and midwives"; and Mr. Lee Warner fears it may alarm the rate-payers and the nurses themselves.

VILLAGE NURSES AND MIDWIVES.

The current issue of *The Englishwoman* contains a letter from Miss A. C. Lowe, Secretary to Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses in reference to the article in the previous issue by Miss Joseph entitled "A Scheme for Training Nurses," as it is thought that the information with reference to the Village Nurses under the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute may give rise to some misunderstanding as to the work and training of these nurses.

Miss Lowe writes:—"It cannot be too strongly emphasised that under the rules of the Queen's Institute, Village Nurses must be certified midwives, whether they are practising as midwives or not. That is their *raison d'être*. Their training, which is given in an approved Home, and extends for twelve months, must include a regular course of practical and theoretical midwifery, and they are obliged to pass the examination of the Central Midwives Board." They also receive instruction in first aid and sick nursing.

We have always held that village "nurses" are in reality village midwives, and if only the Queen's Institute would claim this honourable title for them the misconception as to the status of the village nurse would once for all be swept away. Twelve months' instruction in midwifery, including the nursing care of normal and abnormal midwifery cases, would afford a sound training for midwives sent to country districts, where they must frequently act on their own initiative and responsibility in the absence of the doctor. But the term "nurse" should have a definite meaning, and imply the attainment of a standard of professional knowledge quite impossible to acquire in twelve months, in conjunction with midwifery training.

The well-trained midwife is an honourable and most useful worker. The title of "certified midwife by examination," one of which any woman may be proud. We think all those entitled to it should claim it and use it with pride, and unless they are thoroughly trained nurses also, should abandon the use of a title which is a misnomer, in favour of one which they have earned, and which gives them a legal status and definite position in the body politic.

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