

In the case of Isabella Jackson, Miss McClelland, the Inspector, who is a trained nurse, as well as a certified midwife, stated in a statutory declaration that she found the midwife washing a baby which was covered with faeces at the same time, and in the same water, as the mother was washing her face.

In the case of another midwife who did not think it necessary to show the inspector her books, the excuse offered to the Local Supervising Authority was that she objected to be taught by a single woman. The Chairman remarked, in this connection, that the Board had not yet enforced matrimony on its inspectors.

THE MATERNAL INSTINCT.

Miss Elizabeth Ross, now working under the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, in Achill Island, Co. Mayo, writes:—

"That article 'The Maternal Instinct' has gone to my very soul. I have read and re-read it, and given it to others to read and all I ask is to be allowed to nurse those poor nuns. I feel quite 'strong' in maternity work, having had so much to do lately, and I might be able to spare nuns the ordeal of a doctor being present. As the sister of nuns I understand how they feel as if the trouble were my own. I think the writer of that article must have a beautiful mind; the subject (such a difficult one to treat) is handled with such delicacy and tenderness. It is a little gem.

"I couldn't do without the JOURNAL, it is such a link with the nursing world, living as I do on the edge of the world. I have had six very happy months in Achill. The winter is very wild and bleak, and all the baby cases come pouring in just in the bad months, but in the autumn there were days when from my cottage door I seemed to look on fairyland. The scenery is glorious, and the people are so nice and most interesting. In some parts of the island they speak Irish only. I am not learning it quickly. It is a difficult language.

The ways of the islanders are very different from the ordinary. They are very frightened of the fairies at night time, and no man, woman or child puts out so much as a nose after dark if he can help it. A strong man coming to give me a night call brings another 'for fear he'd be lonesome' but well do I know why he brings company. I have had forty babies since I came, and as my district is scattered over miles in all directions and across hills, and I often go to my cases (at night) perched on a saddleless horse behind a man, and crossing bogs or a river, or at the edge of the sea, there is plenty of variety.

"A few interesting people live here all the year round, authors, artists, or Gaelic enthusiasts, so I am not altogether bereft of a little social intercourse, but my monthly week-ends are only a name, as one can do so little situated 10 miles from the nearest railway station. I am far from

my friends and people and never see them unless they will come in the summer.

ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING THE TRAINING AND SUPPLY OF MIDWIVES.

The annual meeting of the above Association was held, by kind permission of Miss Lorent Grant, at 75, Barkston Gardens, S.W., on Thursday, March 11th. The Association, of which Queen Alexandra is Patron, is well supported as it deserves to be, by a long list of influential names on the Council. Mrs. Humphry Ward, who is well known for her practical sympathy in the Children's Play Centre Movement, occupied the chair. In her opening remarks, she drew attention to the fact that, whereas at this time of stress and strain, we found it necessary and possible to do without many things, it was impossible to do without the beneficent work that the Association represented. On the contrary, the need was greater, and the care of the mothers and the safeguarding of infant life was of very special importance. After the automatic business of re-electing the President (H.R.H. Princess Christian), Vice-Presidents, Council, and other hon. officials, had been gone through, Mrs. Ebdon, member of the Finance Committee, moved the adoption of the Report. She laid special stress upon the necessity of a high standard of efficiency in the inspection of midwives, because—she truly remarked—efficiency or inefficiency might mean the life or death of the child. She also referred to the vexed question of the doctor's fee, saying that no Amending Bill will be complete which does not definitely solve that problem. It was interesting to hear two or three of the speakers pay a tribute of praise to Liverpool for its splendid system for the care of mother and child; stress being laid upon the importance of ante-natal hygiene in force there. The midwives trained by the Association appear to have acquired a very excellent reputation wherever they are employed. Miss Lorent Grant, in moving the adoption of the Balance Sheet, deplored the withdrawal of many contributions owing to the war, and the death of many generous supporters. On the other hand a grant of £50 from the funds collected on Alexandra Day had been gratefully received, also £52 from the National Relief Fund had been allocated to the Association. Nevertheless the need for more subscribers was earnestly emphasized, and we trust it will not be in vain. One of the speakers enlivened the meeting by relating the story of a little girl, who, being very proud of her large family, remarked: "Isn't it nice, we are eight, and we should have been ten, only two of us missed the carriage"! At the close of the meeting, Miss S. M. Glass (Inspector, Q.V.J.I.), read a very interesting paper on the "Present Position of the Midwife." The guests were afterwards hospitably entertained to tea by the kind hostess.

B. K.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)