

The Midwife.

THE SCOPE OF THE MIDWIFE.

There are those who hold that the duty of the midwife is discharged when she has rendered skilled attention to the mother and child during the ten days following delivery, as required by the Central Midwives' Board; kept clear of puerperal infection, ophthalmia neonatorum, and all the pitfalls which beset the path of the midwife; and that, her duty performed, it matters little or nothing what kind of woman she may be when not in attendance on a patient.

In truth, to perform the duties required of a midwife by the Central Midwives' Board aright, requires considerable special knowledge, much more than can be acquired in the three months' training which is all which that Board exacts; those who have the education of midwives are unanimous in desiring that the length of training should be extended. The curriculum laid down will serve the purpose for some time; but it is impossible for the average intellect to retain

all that it is expected to absorb in three months even though it can cram enough to pass muster at the time of the Board's examination. Six months later, numbers of the midwives who have been in practice since a given examination, would fail, if required to go up for a similar one.

But, assuming that the professional and practical knowledge of a midwife is adequate, there still remain many duties to be discharged by one who has an adequate conception of them, involving much trouble, much painstaking, which lift the work of a midwife out of dull routine to that of a profession with unlimited opportunities and influence. Indeed, the very future of the race and of the Empire depends to a greater extent than many realize on the standard which mid-

wives maintain; for the good health or the reverse of generations to come depend in numberless instances on the conception of motherhood which midwives set before their patients, in the days preceding maternity, and again in those in which the midwife reigns supreme, in the lying-in room, when the young mother is receptive of influence to a degree almost unprecedented in any other relations, in which the physical and moral training of the infant can be directed into right channels, and the mother eventually resume the work of life with her ideals ennobled; or, on the other hand, may have been encouraged by the midwife to

adopt habits which lead to unhappiness in the home, and undermine the health of the child.

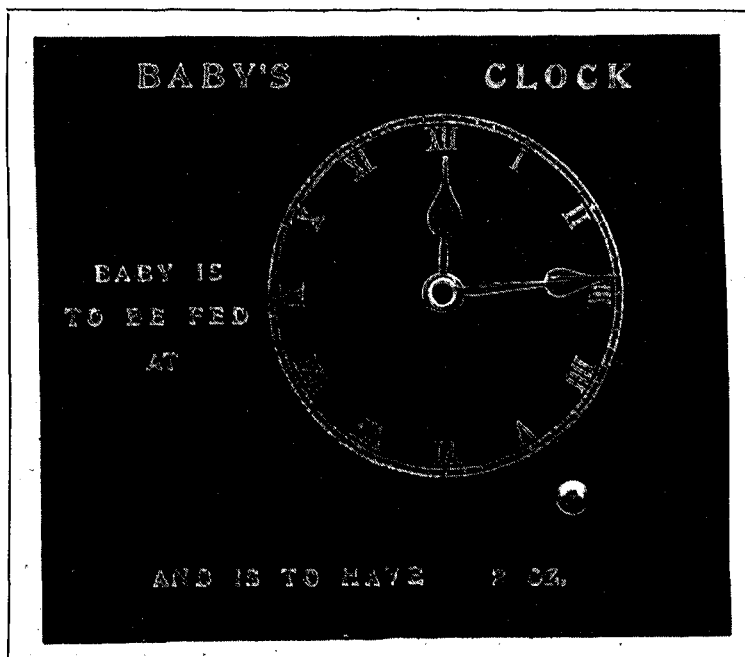
The life of a midwife is hard and exacting, but it is satisfying if she can look back and see homes the happier, mothers with loftier ideals, and children the healthier for her work.

This is the goal which the best type of modern midwife keeps in view, and a knowledge of progress towards which sweetens toil, and makes her

strenuous duties seem light, in comparison with the supreme importance of the work accomplished for the national welfare.

A BABY'S CLOCK.

The illustration on this page shows a practical device by Miss May Lyle, a trained nurse, for indicating the time when a baby's feed is next due and the amount which should be given, and though intended primarily for babies, the clock can, of course, be used with equal facility in the care of adult patients. Miss Lyle, who was awarded the second prize of £1 1s. at the Dublin Nursing Exhibition in June, 1913, has now patented her invention, and hopes shortly to put it upon the market.



CARDBOARD CLOCK, DESIGNED BY MISS MAY LYLE, INDICATING WHEN A BABY'S FEED IS NEXT DUE, AND THE AMOUNT TO BE GIVEN.

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