

## The Midwife.

### THE ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING THE TRAINING AND SUPPLY OF MIDWIVES.

By kind permission of the Lady Balfour of Burleigh, the Annual Gathering of Midwives of the above Association was held this year at 47, Cadogan Square, S.W.

In addition to those parts of the proceedings which were public, the midwives present were invited to ask questions on points of difficulty, which were replied to by Miss Rosalind Paget.

The opening remarks were made by Her Grace the Duchess of Norfolk, who commented on the valuable services rendered by trained midwives to the rising generation. Formerly both mothers and babies were often very much neglected by their untrained attendants, and the community were grateful to the women who had taken the trouble of training so perfectly for their work.

Miss Lucy Robinson, a member of the Council, and Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Association, and well known to midwives in connection with their work, then addressed the members, and, as one of those associated with the Association from the beginning, and with the movement which after twenty years' struggle had resulted in the passing of the Midwives' Act, reminded those present of the very great gain which had resulted. The untrained and therefore dangerous woman could no longer call herself a midwife, or practise as such; and the trained woman had a recognized status, which was an enormous improvement.

Under these new conditions, infant and maternal deaths had been greatly reduced. Midwives could do good or bad work, and Miss Robinson advised her hearers to remind themselves that in their hands lay the issues of life and death. They had also immeasurably great opportunities of influence. At a first confinement, the young mother looked to the midwife for advice as to the care of her child and of her own health. Lessons of cleanliness, gentleness, godliness and self-restraint could be inculcated in the impressionable period of these days of intercourse.

Never in the history of England had the work of midwives been so sorely needed. She was sure the midwives of the Association were doing their part, and she wished them God speed in their work, and looked to them, by their good work, to help to raise the standard of midwifery practice, to live down the opposition from either end: that of the mother who feared to trust herself to the care of a midwife, and of the doctor who feared her competition.

Mrs. Ebdon, Chairman of the Council, then gave some interesting information as to the work of the Association. It was, she said, just ten years

since it had trained its first band of twenty midwives, and they were still in touch with twelve, and six were still working where they were then placed.

Lady Beaumont wrote of Mrs. Kinnell, that she could not be grateful enough to the Association for having sent her. She was the tried and trusted friend of all, and everyone loved her. She could not now imagine life without Mrs. Kinnell to help into the world all the babies of the neighbourhood.

Mrs. Wheatley had attended 1,386 confinements. She was unable to be present, but had written to thank all those ladies and gentlemen who had put her into the position of attending the mothers and of earning a good living.

Mrs. Ebdon then referred to those members of the Association who were working in Red Cross Hospitals, and helping with the Belgian wounded; and to Nurse Round, who was combating typhus in Serbia.

No one apparently paused to enquire what qualifications these midwives had for this nursing work.

The Duchess of Norfolk, assisted by Mrs. Ebdon, then presented their certificates to midwives who had been in the service of the Association for two years; and badges, awarded as a mark of esteem, and in recognition of the faithful performance of duty at the end of a year. Many were unable to be present, and their badges were retained for them.

#### BADGES.

The following midwives were awarded badges:—  
Alice Abbott, working independently at Kettering, Northants; Alice Aldridge, working independently at Eastbourne; Eliza Barron, working under the Hertfordshire C.N. Association; Margaret Clarke, working under the Sussex C.N. Association; Comfort Dowding, working independently at Patchway, Gloucestershire; Constance Gurney and Millicent King, working under the Oxfordshire Nursing Federation; Louisa Marshall, working independently at Levenshulme, Manchester; Mary Potter, working under the Duchess of Somerset's Nursing Association at Maiden Bradley; Edith Robinson, working independently at Bulwell, Notts; Lucy H. Swindells, working at Mayfield, Derbyshire; Lily Timmis, working independently at Kids Grove, Staffs; Emily Thompson, working under the Devonshire C.N. Association; Annie Ward, working under the Berriew Nursing Association; Lily Webb, working independently at Irthlingboro', Northants; Maud White, working under the Gloucestershire C.N. Association; Jane Williamson, working independently at Huddersfield; Emily Woods, working under the Oxfordshire Nursing Federation; Margaret Wootton, working independently at Brierley Hill, Staffs.

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