

In seconding a vote of thanks proposed by Lady Holland to the Duchess of Norfolk for presenting the badges, and to Lady Balfour of Burleigh, for kindly lending her house and entertaining the members, Mrs. von Glehn happily related the story of a meeting she had with a member when going down by train to a suburb recently. In the same carriage was a midwife, wearing the badge of the Association. She would naturally have greeted her, but the midwife looked so absolutely worn out that she thought she would drop off to sleep if she kept silence—and that was what happened. When she opened the carriage door to leave the train the sleeper woke; the badge which she was wearing was an immediate bond of union, and to the last she saw the midwife waving happily to her.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS (EXTENSION) BILL.

Mr. Long (President of the Local Government Board), on Thursday, July 1st, presented a Bill to extend the Notification of Births Act, 1907, to areas in which it had not been adopted, and to make further provision in connection therewith for the care of mothers and young children. The Bill was read a first time. At its second reading on July 8th, Mr. Long explained that experience had shown that where the powers were in force most satisfactory consequences followed. On Tuesday the Bill passed through Committee with some amendments, and was afterwards read a third time.

CONVICTION OF UNCERTIFIED WOMAN.

At Llanhilleth, S. Wales, last week, Mrs. Rachel Davies was summoned at the instance of the Monmouthshire County Council for using the name "midwife" without a certificate and for unlawfully attending women for the purpose of gain. Mr. H. S. Gustard (clerk to the County Council) prosecuted, and Mr. W. J. Everett (Pontypool) defended. Dr. Rocyn Jones, county medical officer, said defendant had endeavoured to register but had not been successful, and the County Council, for the sake of the mothers of that district, had sent trained women there, but they had not been able to make a living in consequence of the practice carried on by Mrs. Davies. The bench fined defendant 20s. upon the first summons, and 40s. on the second.

INSURANCE ACT AND MATERNITY HOSPITALS.

An important conference, one of a series designed to remove misunderstanding as to the rules relating to maternity benefit under the Insurance Act, will (the *Scotsman* announces) be held in the Goid Hall, Edinburgh, on the evening of Friday, July 23rd. The questions to be discussed are of interest to the great body of insured persons, and are of high importance from the national point of view. Each conference will be presided

over by a member of the Insurance Commission. Sir Halliday Croom will be the principal speaker at the Edinburgh Conference.

The Commissioners have issued a statement to the effect that they understand that a considerable amount of misunderstanding exists in regard to the disposal of sickness and maternity benefits when the insured person or, in the case of maternity benefit, the mother, is an inmate of one of the following institutions: Poorhouse, hospital, asylum, convalescent home or infirmary, supported by any public authority or out of any public funds, or by a charity, or voluntary subscriptions, or of a sanatorium or similar institution approved under the Act. The statement shows the effect of the special provisions of the Act in this respect. If the insured person is an inmate of an institution which does not fall within the above definition, e.g., a private nursing home, the ordinary provisions as to payment of benefit apply.

PROPER APPLICATION OF MATERNITY BENEFIT.

In a circular relative to maternity benefit and maternity hospitals, the Commissioners point out that from the provisions of the Acts it is evident that one of the chief objects of the benefit is to enable mothers to obtain competent assistance. The Commissioners emphasise to Approved Societies the importance of every endeavour being made to secure the application of maternity benefit to the purposes for which it was intended. The view is expressed that the utilisation in accordance with such agreements or arrangements as are authorised by the National Insurance Acts of the services of the competent staffs attached to the maternity hospitals, would be a considerable step in the right direction. The Commissioners express the hope that as the outcome of these conferences a satisfactory basis of agreement may be arrived at between the maternity hospitals and the societies and that the latter will agree to conjoint action among themselves in regard to this matter.

THE BABIES' KIT.

An interesting exhibition of war gifts from the Overseas Dominions was (says a contemporary) held at the Knightsbridge Hotel, on Tuesday in last week, by the New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage. The articles came from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa, in answer to an appeal by Miss Harriet Newcombe, of the British Dominions Suffrage Society, and are destined for poor Belgian and British children, who are suffering through the war. Perhaps the most fascinating exhibits were the tiny kit bags, sent by "The Babies' Kit Society" (founded by Dr. Mary Booth, of Sydney), and labelled: "To the Babies of the Allies." Each bag contained a complete outfit, even to soap and powder, for a baby from one day old sometimes to the age of two years. Twelve large bales of these little trousseaux were sent from New South Wales, and are being divided between the babies of Belgium, Poland, and Serbia.

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