

There were no defended cases. Midwife Sinclair had notified her intention to appear but failed to do so.

In the case of Mary Ann Goodman, against whom there were two charges, in one case the mother having died from adherent placenta, the midwife in her defence stated that the delay in obtaining medical help was occasioned by the first medical man applied to refusing to attend. The M.O.H. for South Shields, however, did not give her a very satisfactory report.

The charge against Ellen Healy of negligence in regard to the child's eyes was explained by her with the plea that she had not been engaged for the case, that the child was born before arrival, that the condition of the room was squalid and dirty, that there was only a mattress and no bedstead, and that she had to borrow a quilt to cover the patient. She asserted that she did both wash the child's eyes and cleanse the mother.

In the case of Mary Ellinor Knight, who was charged with negligence and drunkenness, the Inspector of Midwives and Mr. Gee, Chief Clerk of the Public Health Department, gave evidence in corroboration of the charges. The Chairman complimented them on the way the case had been presented and managed and said the procedure had been much shortened in consequence. The midwife had already been cautioned twice by the local authority, so it could not be said that she had not had her chance.

A sad letter was received from the midwife undergoing sentence for performing an illegal operation. She hoped her offence would be forgiven, for she loved her work. She wrote:—"I was weak enough to give advice, and I cannot believe I was the cause of the miscarriage. I shall never be the same happy mother and woman again." Her son, she stated, was a prisoner of war in Germany.

Midwife Steele also begged to be forgiven. "I do not wish to practise, but I am proud of my certificate, which I got when I was younger and full of energy and love for my work. I beg you to let me keep it."

The Inspector, who was present, said that if she could keep temperate she could do good work. She had not notified her intention to practise as a midwife (although she had done so in two instances) solely because she could not trust herself in this particular.

REGULATIONS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF MIDWIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

New regulations on the above subject have recently been gazetted in the Cape Province, which provide that (A) the Council may grant a certificate of registration as a midwife to any person who has obtained a certificate of registration as midwife granted by any Medical Council within the Union of South Africa after examination by the said Medical Council, or the certificate of the Central Midwives' Board in London,

granted after examination, provided that all applicants for registration under this regulation shall be required to submit the diplomas or certificates by virtue of which they claim registration, together with certain other information; and (B) providing that similar information is furnished, the Council may grant certificates of registration after due examination to persons who shall satisfy the examiners appointed for the purpose by the Council, of their competence, skill and fitness for the practice of a midwife's calling.

THE ALEXANDRA MATERNITY HOME, DEVONPORT.

At the Annual Meeting of the Alexandra Nurses' Maternity Home, held at the Home in St. Michael's Terrace, Devonport, the annual report stated that the work has gone on steadily throughout a trying year, and had been greatly valued by the wives and families of men belonging to the port and garrison. There were now seven Sisters under the Matron, Miss Gyles, from 20, Tamar Terrace. The Maternity Home, at 1, St. Michael's Terrace had proved, by the great success of its first year of work, how much it had been needed. Ninety-six babies had been born there, and all the patients, without exception, had expressed their gratitude for the care bestowed on them, and for the comfort and peace they had enjoyed. They had had patients from Exeter and other places altogether outside Devonport boundaries, and should continue to welcome them should they wish to come. Arrangements could be made for patients to stay beforehand at the Home.

THE BIRMINGHAM MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

The Birmingham City Council, on the recommendation of the Health Committee, have decided to make a grant to the Birmingham Maternity Hospital towards the expenditure incurred by them on Maternity and Infant Welfare. The grant of £75 per bed, or £1,500 per annum will be made on condition that the hospital set aside 20 beds for difficult cases of pregnancy, and subject to the Council being represented on the management committee of the hospital by a member of the Health Committee, and the medical officer, and that full records of all cases treated be kept for the information of the Health Committee.

Councillor Cadbury remarked during the discussion that the Council had authorised the committee to establish six more maternity centres. Owing partly to the war, and partly to the great difficulty of finding centres in the largest districts, they had only established two up to the present. Now a sub-committee had been formed to take the work in hand, and it was their intention to go forward and establish the rest of the centres, also to encourage the starting of centres if possible by private enterprise in out-lying districts.

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