

its behalf. When the authorised person is changed, the newly appointed person must be registered, and they are of opinion that a fee of 1s. only should be charged instead of the full fee of 5s. or £1 1s., as the case may be, for such registration. The Finance Committee concur in the proposal, and the General Purposes Committee will, in due course, submit the necessary modification of regulation No. 647. The Committee accordingly recommended: "That the fee payable in respect of an application for registration of a lying-in home or an establishment for massage or special treatment, necessitated by a change of the responsible person authorised by a non-incorporated society, association, or body to carry on such home or establishment on its behalf, be one shilling."

#### THE NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.

At the recent Annual Meeting of the Totnes Benefit Nursing Association, when the Mayor, Mr. G. Symons, presided, an address was given by Miss Bell (Superintendent of the County Nursing Association), on the Notification of Births Act and the notification of measles. The former was going to affect Nursing Associations almost as much as the Midwives Act, but it would be practically a dead letter unless the cases were followed up. Any scheme put forward must cover the whole county. It would cost not less than £1,600 a year to work the Act satisfactorily. The county would receive back half from the Local Government Board. District visitors and practising midwives were the right persons to act as health visitors. If independent health visitors were appointed, they would upset the Nursing Associations and prove a constant source of friction.

Whoever are appointed as Health Visitors, it is essential, if their work is to be effective, that they should hold special qualifications and be recognized public officials. District visitors are usually ladies of leisure who do a certain amount of visiting among their poorer neighbours, but are not in any way specially trained or possessed of expert knowledge. Again, three or even six months' training as a midwife is not a sufficient qualification for dealing with the problems which confront the health visitor.

The Mayor of Stepney, opening an exhibition of mothercraft at the Whitechapel Gallery on Monday last, said that next to war work he knew of no better way of doing one's duty than trying to save young life in a borough like Stepney, where a thousand babies died every year under the age of 12 months.

A marriage will shortly take place, very quietly, between Sir William Barrett, F.R.S., of Kings-town, County Dublin, and Dr. Florence Willey, of Devonshire Place, London, W., well known to nurses and midwives through her much appreciated lectures.

#### BIRKENHEAD MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

At the Annual Meeting of the Birkenhead Maternity Hospital the Annual Report of the Committee, presented by the Hon. Secretary, contained the following paragraph:—

"It is with great regret that the Committee announce the resignation of the Matron, Miss Tickle, who for ten years has worked with a thoroughness of self-sacrifice impossible to estimate. This step has been taken by the Matron after long consideration and solely on account of continued ill-health. The thanks of all concerned in the management are due to Miss Tickle for the splendid work she has accomplished not only in the hospital but also for the training school which has a record of success difficult to surpass. The post of Matron has been offered to and accepted by Miss Jean Watson, Sister-in-Charge of the Maternity Department, Royal Infirmary, Dundee, the candidate chosen unanimously by the Committee from among a large number of applicants."

#### THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD FOR SCOTLAND.

By virtue of steps taken by the Lord President of the Council, in pursuance of Section 3 of the Midwives (Scotland) Act, 1915, the Central Midwives Board for Scotland has been provisionally constituted as follows:—

The Lady Balfour of Burleigh, appointed by the Lord President of the Council; Sir Archibald Buchan-Hepburn, Bt., appointed by the Association of County Councils for Scotland; Sir Robert Kirk Inches, Knt., appointed by the Convention of the Royal Burghs of Scotland; The Lady Susan Gordon-Gilmour, appointed by the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses (Scottish Branch); Archibald Campbell Munro, Esq., M.B., C.M., D.Sc. (P.H.), appointed by the Society of Medical Officers of Health of Scotland; Professor Sir John Halliday Croom, Knt., M.D., F.R.C.P. (Edin.), F.R.S., appointed by the University Courts of the Universities of Edinburgh and St. Andrews (conjointly); Professor Murdoch Cameron, M.D., C.M., appointed by the University Courts of the Universities of Glasgow and Aberdeen (conjointly); James Haig Ferguson, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P. (Edin.), F.R.C.S. (Edin.), appointed by the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (conjointly); Michael Dewar, Esq., M.D., C.M., and John Wishart Kerr, Esq., M.B., Ch.B., appointed by the Scottish Committee of the British Medical Association.

The two certified midwives nominated by the Lord President are not yet appointed, possibly because they must first be enrolled, but it is to be hoped the appointments will be made at the earliest possible date, so that the Board may have the advantage of their professional knowledge and assistance during the formation of the Roll and the drafting of the rules.

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