

EXAMINATION AS SOON AS CONCEPTION IS KNOWN

The pregnant woman can be saved much pain and destruction to her teeth if she begins to care for them as soon as conception is known.

In this enlightened day a good obstetrician advises an examination of the mouth of his patient as soon as she comes to him, because he realises that the healthy mouth of the mother helps produce a healthy child.

The importance of putting the mouth into as nearly an aseptic condition as possible can scarcely be overrated in its beneficial effect upon both mother and child.

All tartar should be removed and inflamed gums treated. Any cavities should be cleaned and filled. If there are many it is better to put in something temporary until the period of nausea is passed.

If any tooth is too badly diseased to save it should be removed under an anæsthetic. Other diseased pulps should be treated and roots filled. It is not advisable to have gold fillings pounded in because of the resulting nervous strain.

Remember that the dentist must be told of the woman's condition before the work is begun.

(To be concluded.)

THE FALLING BIRTH RATE.

With the toll this War has taken and is taking of the flower of British manhood, the maintenance of the normal birth rate is a matter of supreme importance, and it is disquieting that the sixty-first annual report of the Registrar-General for Scotland should divulge the fact that the number of births registered during the year (114,181) should be the smallest in any year since 1869, being 12,363 less than the average of the last ten years. At the same time, the infantile mortality rate of the year was high—126.5 per thousand births. It was 14.9 more than the ten years mean, and the highest since 1901.

These facts deserve the attention of every thinking person.

THE RESTRICTION OF NOXIOUS DRUGS.

One of the most revolting practices is that by which a woman destroys the life of the unborn child, which instinct bids her cherish and protect, by abortifacients. Yet, it was definitely established by the Commission on the Birth Rate that the avoidance of parenthood by the illegal induction of abortion is widely prevalent, and that a common method adopted by poor mothers—especially in the northern towns—is to destroy their unborn infants by the use of a preparation of lead; and the Commission recommended that the manufacture of this particular preparation should be prohibited or severely restricted. The manufacturers are willing to co-operate with the Commission to devise practical means to prevent the sale of the preparations for illegal purposes. We may therefore hope that effective means will be taken to stop this growing evil.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

The first meeting of the Central Midwives after the autumn recess was held at Caxton House, Westminster, S.W., on Thursday, October 5th, Sir Francis Champneys, Bart., M.D., in the chair.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

The correspondence included a letter from the Clerk of the Council transmitting a copy of an Order in Council approving the First General Rules of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland for a period of five years. Also a letter from the Local Government Board transmitting a copy of a Circular and Regulations relating to the L.G.B. Grant in Aid of Maternity and Child Welfare.

A letter was received from Lord Knutsford asking the Board to reconsider its decision of July 27th declining to accept a course of 15 lectures delivered by the Obstetric Physician of the London Hospital and 13 delivered by the Senior Resident Accoucheur as a compliance with Rule C. 1 (1) (c) requiring a course of not less than 20 lectures to be delivered by a registered medical practitioner recognised by the Board as a teacher.

It was agreed that the reply be that the Board notes, (a) That the Resident Accoucheur holds office for three months only. (b) That "extra expense" (presumably that entailed by paying for 20 instead of 15 lectures by the Obstetric Physician) is alleged as one of the reasons for allowing the Resident Accoucheur to deliver the extra number now required, and that the Board regrets it feels itself unable to alter its decision to require the approved Lecturer to deliver not less than 20 lectures.

The application of a candidate who had been excluded from the Board's Examination last October, by reason of having tendered a baptismal certificate which had been falsified, to be admitted to examination was granted, as she had presented fresh certificates of moral character satisfactory to the Board.

The Secretary reported the presentation by three candidates for the examination of October 24th of baptismal or birth certificates which had been tampered with. Consideration of the matter was adjourned until the next meeting of the Board.

APPLICATIONS.

For Removal from the Roll.—The applications of twelve midwives for the removal of their names from the Roll of Midwives on account of ill-health, old age, or inability to comply with the rules, were granted.

For Recognition as a Training School.—The application of the Sassoon Maternity Hospitals, Poona, for recognition as a training school was granted.

For Recognition as a Lecturer.—The application of Dr. Susie Eleanor Hill was granted *pro tem*.

For Approval to Undertake the Practical Training of Pupil Midwives.—The applications of Midwife Lilian Rose Golds (No. 32662) and Midwife Gertrude Ellen Rippon (No. 24909) were granted.

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