

Miss Halford, and other well-known persons interested in the important work of Child Welfare.

July 1st-7th has been chosen for a campaign throughout the British Isles, having for its object "to bring home to every individual the urgent necessity of saving the thousands of babies who die from preventable causes every year, and to arouse the individual and civic conscience relating to the welfare of mothers and babies." The "Baby Week" is primarily for educational and propaganda purposes.

The Chairman said that, though many persons might object to booming, they must put away their dislike in this instance and do their best to make this important question public.

Mrs. Gomm gave an outline of the methods proposed, and commented on the difficulties of the undertaking at the present time. The shortage of money, paper, &c. Much must be done by word of mouth. They proposed to tack on to existing organisations and make their objects known through them—through the mayors, through the schools and through them to the parents, through mothers' meetings, through the Churches. It was proposed to give lectures to parents.

The Prime Minister of New Zealand referred to the low mortality rate of infants in New Zealand, as contrasted with America. This was partly due to Lady Plunkett's organization of nurses. The financial side there was augmented by Government, which added £1 4s. to every £1 subscribed. The good result of this work was warmly recognised and appreciated by the Government, and had the honour of being referred to in the Governor's speech, which marked it as a subject of great importance. He considered any neglect or indifference to this subject as simply criminal.

Mr. Ernest Williams of the Federation of Brotherhoods stated that their Federation had decided to concentrate on Infant Welfare. "First things first," he said, and he recommended for perusal "The Call of the Cradle" a pamphlet drawn up by his Committee.

Mrs. H. B. Irving made a stirring and impressive appeal on behalf of the unmarried mothers and illegitimate children. "We had come" she said "to the parting of the ways. It was absolutely criminal to separate the mother and child. Institutions should be started to deal with this need. Workhouse nurseries full of bottle-fed babies should be compelled to give up their contents. They were cared for by half experienced or wholly inexperienced nurses. The death-rate of these poor law children was horrifying. She commented on the advantages of climate and air space for infants in New Zealand, and said that housing conditions in this country must be greatly improved before any appreciable reduction in the mortality could be achieved. The Borough Councils had been effecting economies by abolishing water carts and dust collection, they had shut baths and washhouses. These actions should be protested against.

We hear that National Baby Week is already assured of very great success.

### QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

At the recent annual meeting of Governors of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Marylebone Road, W., it was reported that there had been a large increase in the number of patients admitted to the Wards in 1916, namely, 2,075 as compared with 1817 in 1915; and 2,058 had been attended at home by the hospital midwives. Of the in-patients, 407 and of the out-patients 911 were the wives of soldiers and sailors. In order to cope with the increasing work of the ante-natal department, a new (temporary) out-patient department had been opened adjoining the hospital, and a physician (Miss Frances M. Huxley, M.D.) had been appointed in charge. An infant consultation centre was also being opened and a physician, Miss Margaret G. Thackrah, had been appointed in charge. The number of emergency cases admitted had been greater than ever. Last year there were 183, many of them being admitted in a grave condition and suffering from severe complications.

The work had been carried on under difficult conditions, owing to shortage of nurses. The training school had, however, well maintained its reputation, and only one candidate had failed to pass the Central Midwives' Board Examination out of 113 candidates.

The Ladies' Association continued to give most valuable assistance. In addition to providing all the linen for the hospital, to the value of £267, the Association had been able to contribute £500 to the hospital funds. The chairman made a strong appeal for liberal support, to enable the committee to pay off the balance (nearly £2,000) of the debt which had accumulated, and to meet the cost of maintenance during the current year.

A special meeting of the Central Midwives Board—Sir Francis Champneys presiding—to consider charges against certified midwives, was held at Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, on Tuesday, March 13th, with the following results:—

*Struck off the Roll and Certificate Cancelled.*—Elizabeth Larcombe (No. 11119), Jane Ledzinsky (No. 3323), Charlotte Louisa Moxon (No. 1598), Mary Parkes (No. 2966), Clara Ann Silver (No. 6301), Emily Smith (No. 17521), Louisa Alice White (No. 34333).

*Adjourned, Reports in Three and Six Months.*—Martha Baker (No. 39293), Mary Ann Haigh (No. 1627), Mary Ann John (No. 25605), Mary Ellen Robinson (No. 31909).

The first lecture of the advanced course on Infant Care arranged by the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, was given by Lady Barrett, M.D., M.S., on March 9th, at the College of Ambulance, 3, Vere Street, W. The lecture, which was on "The Development of the Child before Birth," was most instructive and lucid.

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