

NEW MOTHERS FOR OLD.

Lastly, most grateful thanks are due to Miss Napier for the care of the convalescent mothers. A country holiday after confinement is of the most enormous value to the city working woman. It is a breathing space of delight, which can be lived over again afterwards, a time to get straight, to take up any hard burdens, a house of defence into which she can escape in the midst of squalor, wretchedness and ill-treatment. Isn't it worth while to give a sane, sound mother back to her children, in exchange for a poor thing with nerves all on end, tired and dispirited? Truly, the Country Convalescent Home resembles Alladin's wicked uncle in that it gives us new mothers for old. She will come back again full of divine discontent. She will hug a secret to herself in the midst of her slum life of something known and experienced that can never be taken away. She can say to herself softly, on even the blackest days—

"The darkening streets about me lie,
The shame, the fret, the squalid jars,
But swallows' wings go flashing by
And in the puddles there are stars."

Have I said enough to show you that the East End Mothers' Lying-in Home is filling a tremendous want in a poor neighbourhood? I do appeal to you to stand shoulder to shoulder with the staff here, and not allow them to suffer from financial worry. The spirit of a centre like this is something that money cannot buy, and, possessing such a spirit, it is not too much to ask that it should be relieved from the wear and tear of trying to make both ends meet.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

A meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, on Thursday, May 10th.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was received from the Local Government Board with regard to the question of delegation of inspection of midwives as affecting a complete scheme of Maternity and Child Welfare.

A letter was also received from the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, and for the Welfare of Infancy transmitting a copy of a draft circular prepared jointly by the Midwives Institute and the Committee of the Association with the view of assisting practising midwives in promoting Breast Feeding, and expressing the hope that permission might be given for the publication of the circular with an expression of the approval of the Board.

With the exception of the note at the end, the Board gave its general approval to the circular.

Letters were read from the General Secretary of the Medical Defence Union enclosing a copy of a certificate given by a certified midwife to a female munition worker in the following terms:—

"Mrs. — is now recovered, and able to resume light work."

(Signature) "M.S., C.M.B."

The matter was referred to the Penal Cases Committee for consideration and report.

APPLICATIONS.

For Removal from the Roll.—The applications of six midwives for the removal of their names from the Roll of Midwives on the grounds of old age, and ill health were granted.

For Recognition as Teacher.—The application of Mr. Arthur Gerald Capel Davies, F.R.F.P.S., was granted *pro tem*.

For Approval as Trainer.—The application of Dr. John R. Armstrong was granted *pro hac vice*.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITAL.

The grand concert at the "Queen's Hall, on Tuesday last, organized by M^{me}. Alys Bateman, in aid of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Marylebone Road, N.W., was from first to last a great success; and we may hope that the hospital, which is urgently in need of funds, will benefit substantially. Queen Alexandra—smiling and gracious and beautiful as ever, and wearing a most becoming sequined gown and toque—was present; and with Her Majesty were Princess Henry of Battenberg and Princess Maud of Fife. The Royal Party seemed thoroughly to enjoy the very excellent programme provided by such eminent artists as Mr. Ben Davies, Mr. Charles Tree, M^{me}. Alys Bateman, and others, as well as the music of the Royal Artillery String Band. The beautiful dancing of M^{lle}. Adeline Genée was greatly appreciated; and Mrs. Kendal received an ovation when she came on the platform with one of the hospital babies, just three weeks old, in her arms, and in her own inimitable way pressed home the need of caring for the babies of the nation. It is hoped that £500 may be cleared.

A number of the nurses in their white uniforms and of convalescent soldiers from military hospitals gave a picturesque touch to the proceedings.

The energetic Secretary, Mr. Arthur Watts, and all those who so kindly helped and contributed to the success of the afternoon, are greatly to be congratulated on the result.

THE MIDWIFERY TRAINING SCHOOL.

It is not surprising to learn from the Annual Report of the Midwifery Training School that the applications for training as pupil midwives and monthly nurses have shown a considerable reduction, especially in the case of general trained nurses. The high standard of training given in the school has, however, been well maintained, and the results obtained at the Examinations of the Central Midwives Board have been excellent. Of the 113 candidates who presented themselves for examination, only three failed to pass, the percentage of failures being 2.7, whereas over the whole country it was 21.4. Those who are thinking of obtaining midwifery training will do well to bear in mind the excellent results obtained by the pupils of Queen Charlotte's Hospital.

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