

through the Exhibition (entrance, 1s., up to 5 p.m.), and reserved tickets can be obtained from the Exhibition Secretary, National Baby Week Council, 6, Holles Street, W. 1.

THE L.G.B. AND MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Two recent reports issued by the Local Government Board of interest to midwives are that on Maternity and Child Welfare, dealing with the Provision made by the Public Health Authorities and Voluntary Agencies in England and Wales; and the Report on the Provision of Midwifery Service in the County of London, by Dr. Janet E. Lane Claypon. Both are obtainable through any bookseller; or from H.M. Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C. 2; the first, 1s.; and the second, 6d. net.

The Report on Maternity and Child Welfare "summarises the provision made in each sanitary district of England and Wales, with the direct object of promoting the health and physical welfare of expectant and nursing mothers, and of infants and children under school age. Most of the work is aided by the Local Government Board's grant."

"Direct work for maternity and child welfare includes the home visiting of expectant and nursing mothers, and of infants and young children by trained health visitors; the provision of midwifery and of nursing and medical assistance at child birth where necessary; the establishment of centres where hygienic and medical advice may be obtained by expectant and nursing mothers, for themselves or for their children; arrangements for the medical treatment of women and children found at the centres to need treatment; and, where necessary, provision of hospital beds."

MIDWIFERY SERVICE IN THE COUNTY OF LONDON.

The investigation carried out by Dr. Janet Lane Claypon, in accordance with instructions from the Local Government Board, has been carried out along the following lines:—

A statistical study of the number of births attended by the different agencies at work in the County of London.

These four main agencies are (a) the private practitioner, (b) private midwives, (c) medical schools attached to hospitals, (d) hospitals and other institutions undertaking the training of midwives.

In order to obtain the required information, Dr. Lane Claypon visited (a) the Medical Officer of Health of each Metropolitan Borough, (b) all the hospitals or other voluntary institutions concerned with the provision of midwifery, (c) a number of midwives working in branch establishments of the above, (d) thirty-three independent midwives residing in twenty-three out of the twenty-nine metropolitan boroughs, and (e) a few private practitioners.

The question of providing maternity nursing has been faced and provided for by two of the medical schools. In one case the district is also worked by pupil-midwives who undertake the nursing for the case attended by the medical students as well as those they themselves attend, and in the other case a special nurse with midwifery training is employed by the hospital for this purpose.

THE STUDY OF INFANT LIFE.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the modern midwife, if she is to fulfil her duty to mother and child, must include much more in her obligations than the care of both during labour and the ten days following.

The midwife should become acquainted with her patient in the early months of pregnancy, ascertain her own and her family history, and should there be any reason to suspect complications advise that she should have medical advice. She should endeavour to build up the health of the expectant mother, and to see that she has nourishing and suitable food, and so to direct her that many cases which would otherwise be abnormal, terminate normally when labour occurs. In the year following the infant's birth mother and child should also be kept under supervision, and, when the infant suffers from malnutrition or is otherwise ailing, it should be brought under proper care.

In such a case the help given by the Infants' Hospital in Vincent Square, S.W., is of the utmost value. The work of the hospital is to care for suffering babies, and to restore them, where possible, to health and physical soundness. It is fully equipped for the purpose of affording medical practitioners adequate opportunities to study the important questions involved in infantile malnutrition, and lectures on all matters connected with infant feeding and management are delivered at the hospital to nurses and others interested in the study of infant life. Those whose work is concerned with infants, whether as nurses or midwives, who are within reach of the Infants' Hospital should make a point of attending at least one of these courses. They cannot fail to increase their efficiency thereby.

THOUGHTS FOR MOTHERS.

Under the heading "Thoughts for Mothers" the National League for Physical Education and Improvement, 4, Tavistock Square, London, W. 1, has issued the following series of leaflets:—

Part 1, "God Saw that it was Good" (to be read aloud or given to wives and mothers).

Part 2, "The Gift of Life" (to be read to a little child).

Part 3, "The Temples of Life" (to be read with a boy of 12—14 years).

Part 4, "The Temples of Life" (to be read with a girl of 11—13 years).

Part 5, "The Meaning of Love" (for older boys and girls).

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