

# The Midwife.

## NATIONAL BABY WEEK.

Adeline Duchess of Bedford will preside at the Mass Meeting of Mothers to be held at Central Hall, Westminster, on Tuesday, July the 3rd, at 6 p.m., during the National Baby Week Exhibition. Mrs. Pember Reeves and Dr. Wilson will be among the speakers, while an interesting musical programme has been arranged by Miss Grainger-Kerr, who will open the proceedings by singing "God Save the King."

On Thursday evening, July 5th, a Public Meeting, organised by the Women's International League, will take place in the Central Hall at 8 p.m., when Judge Henry Neil, of Chicago, will tell the story of the methods by which widows with dependent children are cared for in America under the scheme known as "Mothers' Pension," which is intimately associated with many of the aims and objects of the Council of National Baby Week. At this meeting the following resolution will be moved :

This meeting warmly supports the principle underlying the scheme for Mothers' Pensions now in operation in thirty of the United States of North America, which recognises the valued service rendered to the community by Mothers who tend and cherish their children in the home.

It urges that a scheme on similar lines be established in this country, so that no mother who worthily discharges this great service should be brought under the operation of the Poor Law or prevented by economic stress from discharging it adequately and well.

*Liverpool.*—As might be expected, Liverpool, which is always to the forefront of progress in relation to matters of health, has arranged a very comprehensive programme for every day of the week. On Monday, July 2nd, Sir Francis Champneys, Bart., M.D., Chairman of the Central Midwives' Board, will give an address at the Town Hall on "The Promotion of the Welfare of Motherhood and Infancy," and in the afternoon the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress and Sir Francis Champneys will visit the Infants' Hospital at Leasowe.

It will be remembered that the first volume of the exhaustive "Report on the Physical Welfare of Mothers and Children" in England and Wales, issued by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, is by Dr. E. W. Hope, Medical Officer of Health for Liverpool. The

book could not have been entrusted to more competent hands.

*Chichester* is organizing a decorated Pram Parade in the Palace Gardens, when an address will be given by the Bishop of Chichester, and prizes will be presented by Lady Bernard Gordon-Lennox.

*Windsor* will have a Mass Meeting on July 3rd, presided over by the Mayor, at which Dr. Murray Leslie and others will speak, and on the following day a Gala Day in Alexandra Garden, with a Baby Show, Mothercraft Exhibition, and Pram Parade as part of the attractions.

*Hove* is co-operating with Brighton in a mass meeting, and amongst other fixtures is a Municipal Garden Party on July 7th, to which the Mayor of Hove invites all the infants born in 1916-17.

### A PLEA FOR THE BABIES.

The July number of the *Royal Magazine* will contain an article by Mr. Horatio Bottomley, entitled "A Plea for the Babies."

### HOW POOR MOTHERS SUFFER.

A pathetic sight was witnessed last week at the entrance of a workhouse.

Two young women clad in mourning, each holding a tiny infant, stood there, the robes throwing into relief their sombre garments.

They were respectively the married sister and sister-in-law of the infants who were a fortnight old. The history was as follows:—The mother had died a week previously of puerperal fever. She had had nineteen children, eighteen of whom are living, and under the age of fourteen. The Guardians mercifully decided to admit the orphan twin boys into their nursery, as they considered that it was impossible for the father to cope with the situation.

It was stated that the poor mother had completed a large pile of washing the day previous to her confinement, and the married daughter said she had offered to do hers as well.

A Guardian expressing the hope that the children were healthy, was told, "Well, they ought to be, there are eighteen of us alive, that doesn't look as if we had much wrong with us." It is to be hoped that "James" and "Sydney" will prove that their poor long suffering mother's sacrifice was not in vain.

Ample provision should be made for the treatment of puerperal sepsis, as it not infrequently happens, as in this case, that application is made for admission to more than one institution without result, thus causing lamentable delay.

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