

The Midwife.

THE CLAPHAM MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Clapham Maternity Hospital was held at the Hospital, 37-43, Jeffreys Road, S.W., on Thursday, June 28th. Mrs. Despard presided, and was at her happiest in pleading for the mothers and babies. She referred to the forthcoming Baby Week, and spoke as a Poor Law Guardian of the great need of adequate care for the babies of this class, and was glad to think that in her capacity as a guardian she had been able to do something for their benefit. She spoke of the need to teach both boys and girls the elementary facts of life, and how this might be done, beginning with simple lessons in botany showing the dual life in the lower forms of living things, and leading up to the human organism. Referring to the relations between men and women she expressed the hope that we should never have such a terrible, brutal, barbarous thing as physical warfare.

Dr. Katherine Ironside, of Persia, who moved the adoption of the report, which is of special interest because it covers the first full twelve months of work since the reconstruction of the Hospital, spoke of the celebrity of the School of Midwifery attached to the Hospital. Wherever she went she seemed to meet Clapham Maternity Students, including in the hospitals in Persia.

The adoption of the report was seconded by Miss Amado-Taylor, a native of Sierra Leone and a former student at the hospital, who qualified there for the certificate of the Central Midwives' Board.

Dr. Annie McCall, who moved the re-election of the Chairman, Dr. Caroline Sturge, and the Executive Committee, and who took a Baby Week leaflet as the text of her speech, made the satisfactory announcement that, owing to the anonymous friends who first advanced £3,000 on loan, the hospital was free from debt, as the whole of this debt had been wiped out by their "fairy godmothers." The necessity for generous support for upkeep, however, remained, and the Matron, Miss E. Chippendale, would be glad to supply a list of gifts that were needed, including a treadle sewing machine.

The re-election of the officers was seconded by Dr. Clara Hind, of Ockley.

The "Carter" ward, in which the meeting was held, was named in memory of the Rev. Ernest and Lilian Carter (formerly the Vicar of

St. Jude's, Whitechapel, and his wife), who went down together in the *Titanic* on April 14th, 1912. The Dean of Westminster specially referred to the Vicar of St. Jude's and his wife, who had "loved, and laughed, and laboured, in that dreary parish," when preaching after the catastrophe.

At the annual meeting before her death Mrs. Carter presided, and identified herself with the aims and difficulties of the Committee as few could do except by the stroke of genius, which, as the report quoted by Dr. McCall states, is not to be wondered at in her, the daughter of Judge Thomas Hughes, the author of "Tom Brown's School Days." The portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Carter hung in the ward are a reminder of their deep interest in the hospital.

After the meeting tea was hospitably dispensed before a collection was taken, and Mrs. Despard gave great pleasure by visiting the wards in company with the Matron, and speaking to all the mothers and kissing their babies. She is evidently a child-lover, and the mothers, many of whom are soldiers' wives, were quick to recognize it.

A very thoughtful provision in this hospital is the nursery, where the babies sleep at night, thus permitting the mothers to get the good nights so necessary for the building up of their nervous energy.

The low chairs used by the nurses when bathing the babies might well be noted elsewhere. Under the seat is a small drawer, in which the nurse keeps everything necessary for the ceremony.

On a former occasion we remarked on the flat roof of the hospital, where some of the nurses sleep at night. There is a fine view, extending to the Crystal Palace in one direction, and beyond Westminster Abbey, and Houses of Parliament, and St. Paul's Cathedral in another. The nurses can rest on the roof if they do not desire to go further, and get plenty of fresh air. But indeed the wards seem flooded with free air and sunshine, and nurses and patients alike should keep in very fit condition.

It was a great pleasure that Miss Marion Ritchie, the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, was able to be present at the meeting.

It will be a matter of real regret to many people that Sister Olive Haydon and Sister M. French have resigned their appointments as Head Midwife and Sister at the York Road Lying-in Hospital. We are glad to learn they are taking up work in the neighbourhood.

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