

cannot be left without someone there. If she is engaged most of the day and many nights she cannot attend to the house herself, and she must have someone to cook for her and generally help her in the house. A midwife is fortunate if she has a friend or relation who will live with her for the cost of her board alone; more usually she must employ a maid and pay her wages as well as provide for her board. Lodgings are not found to be satisfactory for a practising midwife.

The rules of the Central Midwives Board require the midwife to wear washing dresses, and her laundry bill is inevitably high.

In the country the expenses are less than in the town, since not only are rent, &c., lower, but food is cheaper, and neighbours will frequently take messages and render other neighbourly acts, in a manner that is not possible in a town, where many are strangers to one another. Those with experience state that £2 a week, or if possible rather over, would represent as good an income for a midwife in a small urban district as £3 per week for one in the town.

If £3 per week be regarded as a reasonable income for a midwife in a town, and 120 cases as the number she can attend in the year, the value of her services per case may be regarded as 25s. of which the ante-natal work, if this is undertaken, may be assessed roughly at 5s. For this sum, ante-natal visiting in the home and full midwifery attendance, with adequate maternity nursing, should be given. The expense incidental to the work of a midwife should also be provided out of this fee, but not the fee for the doctor, for which other arrangements are needed. A midwife's fee of 25s. is beyond the capacity of all except a few of the patients they attend.

In the country or in small urban districts the number of cases which can be undertaken adequately in the year by a midwife will vary from 90-100. The services of a midwife must be regarded as of equal value to the community in whatever part of the country they are performed, and in the country the distances will be greater and more time will require to be devoted to each case. The fee paid should be the same as in the town—namely, 25s. Ninety cases at this fee would give an income of £112 10s., or just over £2 a week, which was stated to be the sum found by experience to be necessary for the support of a midwife in the country.

There is no doubt that if a midwife could feel reasonably certain of a livelihood based on the lines given above there would be no difficulty in ensuring a good midwifery service throughout the country. The work is attractive to many women, but the present arduous conditions tend to lower not only the number of women in practice, but also the type of woman who is willing to undertake the work.

The Northumberland Miners' Executive has forwarded a resolution to the Premier urging that a maternity department should be formed as an important part of a new Ministry of Health.

THE RACHEL McMILLAN BABY CAMP.

No better memorial to the late Miss Rachel McMillan could have been designed than that organised by her sister, Miss Margaret McMillan—the Baby Camp at Church Street, Deptford, opened by the Right Hon. Dr. H. A. L. Fisher, President of the Board of Education, last week, in the presence of the Mayors of Greenwich and Deptford, Sir Robert Morant and other friends.

The two sisters have worked devotedly in the very successful open-air nursery school and children's clinic at Deptford. Mr. Fisher said that they all realised that Miss McMillan had done pioneer work in education of a quality and character which those who have at heart the interests of the children of the country must cordially recognise. Wherever there was a great State system of education there was a certain risk—that the system might be hardened, ossified; that it might not admit of width and liberality of experiment. Miss Margaret McMillan and her sister, whose memory they commemorated, had seen some of the fundamental truths of education; that the educational process began at a very early stage; that there was a close connection between education and health, the importance of diffusing throughout the community sound ideas of hygiene, the value of open air, and the importance of unremitting care to the minor ailments of the child. He predicted a great future for nursery camps and nursery schools. So do we, when the children get the benefit of the fresh air, which is Nature's free gift to all, but of which they are so often deprived.

TWILIGHT SLEEP.

In the lecture on Twilight Sleep in connection with Post Graduate Week, which we reported recently, in which the drug administered is a mixture of morphia and scopolamine, Dr. Jock Headley emphasised the importance of never leaving the patient.

Some cases may be delirious, some restless, and he instanced the case of a woman who was found under the bed looking for the Crown Prince. Such a condition was due to an over-dose. He pointed out that at this stage no midwife would be allowed to administer the treatment, and that they must rearrange their ideas and place themselves in the position of monthly nurses. Till the nurse got used to the cases she might feel uneasy about the drowsy and restless condition of her patients, but apart from that there was no difficulty in managing them.

The preliminary doses should never be given except in the first stage. If the os were fully dilated a dose of chloroform would do equally well. It was no bar to the addition of chloroform, and, indeed, it had been found that where chloroform had also to be given in forcep delivery more complete obliteration of the memory was the result.

The uterus was perhaps more flabby, but there had been no cases of P.P.H.

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