

The Midwife.

A CENTRE OF SWEETNESS AND LIGHT.

Sister Olive (Miss M. O. Haydon) is well known to many readers of this Journal as the very clever, expert and popular late head midwife and teacher of midwifery at the York Road Lying-in Hospital.

She and Sister French, who may be described as a baby expert, from the same hospital, have recently acquired a flourishing midwifery practice at Loughborough Junction, in connection with which they take pupils and carry on their valuable work of training future midwives. Their pupils, in addition to their district training, have the advantage of resident patients, for in the commodious house that has been secured for the purpose there is a bright and sunny ward, daintily appointed, where two paying patients can be received. A small labour-ward adjoins. There is a steriliser, of which the district patients have the advantage, as well as the in-patients. There is plenty of bedroom accommodation, and the pupils are housed in comfortable rooms divided by curtains. They have the privilege of attending the lectures at the York Road Lying-in Hospital.

The Infants' Clinic, which it is proposed to start will make this a very comprehensive training for the pupils who are wise enough to avail themselves of it.

When it is borne in mind that in the past eleven years Sister Olive has conducted 10,000 labours, and that Sister French is second to none in her management of "the baby," we imagine that there will be a long waiting list for pupils. There will shortly be "a shilling sale" in support of the proposed Infant Welfare Centre. Any contributions of infant's clothing, knitted or otherwise, will be gratefully received by Sisters Olive and French at 59, Loughborough Park, S.W. 9.

A DRAWING-ROOM MEETING.

A drawing room meeting was held on January 28th, by kind invitation of Mrs. J. L. Bergson, at 40, Queen's Road, Regent's Park, in aid of the proposed Infants' Welfare Centre at Loughborough Junction.

Sister Olive took the chair, and Dr. Eric Pritchard spoke on "How to Judge a Baby."

Sister Olive, in her opening remarks, gave an outline of the scheme she hopes to start. It was, she said, of great importance that mothers should be taught to *think* about the baby.

She and Sister French, who is a specialist in regard to babies, having now undertaken a large midwifery practice within a radius of Loughborough Park, were anxious to follow up their work by starting an Infants' Clinic. They proposed to begin in quite a small way, holding a Clinic once a week or even once a fortnight. For this work they would have to engage suitable

rooms. The London County Council would guarantee half the expenses to a properly-managed Clinic, and, for a modest £100, they would be able to start work. Of this sum a considerable portion had been subscribed. Beyond this they wanted a backbone of regular subscribers.

Dr. Eric Pritchard, in warmly supporting the new venture, spoke of the terrible ignorance on this subject of mothers in all grades of society. Since Baby Week over 100 head centres had been founded. It had been his ambition in the past to become a judge of babies, and this required very considerable knowledge. Huge baby shows had been organised throughout the country in Baby Week. Everyone thought they could judge babies, from the Lady Bountiful to the Lady Bishop, and often more harm than good had been done in consequence. He had had recently to select for a money prize from twelve babies sent up in competition from twelve centres. He had never seen twelve more rickety children in his life than those from whom he had to make a selection for the prize. Appearance, of course, went for a good deal in a baby, but too much stress was laid on it. Like a watch, the most important thing was that it should work properly and perform all its functions in a satisfactory manner.

It was very satisfactory, in taking the history of a young child, to learn that it had gone through most of the complaints incidental to early life without undue disturbance or after effects. It showed that the child was being educated to kill disease germs.

At the close of the meeting Sister Olive made the satisfactory announcement that a substantial cheque had just been received.

Mrs. Bergson kindly provided tea after the proceedings.

THE WEDDING GIFT.

On the Report stage of the National Health Insurance Bill in the House of Lords on January 30th, Viscount Sandhurst moved a new clause, in substitution of that to which Viscount Knutsford and others had objected, and which provided that £2 should be paid at the time of their marriage to insured women. The new clause provides that an insured woman who marries and ceases to be employed shall receive: (1) for one year, 5s. a week sickness benefit—limited to six weeks; and (2) maternity benefit of 30s. for the first confinement within two years of marriage.

Lord Knutsford thanked the Government for the amendment, which was agreed to, and the Report stage of the Bill was passed.

Lord Knutsford is to be congratulated on having secured this amendment, and on the real service he has rendered to the insured women who marry.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)