

# The Midwife.

## THE MIDWIVES (IRELAND) BILL.

Among the Bills which received the Royal Assent on the last day of the session, Wednesday, February 6th, was the Midwives (Ireland) Bill which, thanks to the determination of the Irish Nurses' Association, secures four seats out of a Board of eleven to certified midwives. Those who disparage the value of the self-governing associations of nurses should find an object lesson in the effective influence on legislation of the Irish Nurses' Association—inspired by professional loyalty, patriotism, and a sense of public responsibility—has been able to exert, in spite of the unwillingness of the Government Department responsible for drafting the Bill, and the strong vested interests of the Local Government Board of Ireland.

Irish midwives owe the I.N.A. a deep debt of gratitude, and, because no body of women can fight for justice without making things easier for others, midwives throughout the United Kingdom share in this indebtedness.

English midwives, indeed, will surely not for long be content without agitating for an Amendment Act which will remove the reproach that there is not provision for one midwife on the Central Midwives Board in England, which controls by far the largest number of midwives, while Scotland has two secured to it and Ireland four.

We shall await with interest the names of the Irish Midwives appointed to seats on the Central Midwives Board of Ireland after consultation with the recognised associations of Nurses.

## MIDWIVES AND A MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

At a discussion on the proposed Ministry of Health recently opened by Dr. E. W. Hope, Medical Officer of Health for Liverpool, at the Royal Institute of Public Health, Russell Square, W.C., Sir Francis Champneys (Chairman of the Central Midwives Board), as reported in the *British Medical Journal*, expressed the hope that under any arrangement which was made by the Ministry of Health it would be remembered that private midwives were a necessity. The mothers of the poorer class insisted on them; and, while a system of municipal midwifery might perform useful functions, it would not displace the private midwife, who was valued by the mother or prospective mother as a confidant. Sir Robert Morant said that he often found it necessary to remind people that the establishment of a Ministry of Health as such meant the setting up of a central department, and, therefore, need not involve a large measure, nor of necessity, touch local services at all from the legislative

point of view. The Maternity Bill might be regarded as supplementary.

## CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD FOR SCOTLAND.

At the meeting of the Central Midwives Board held on 7th instant, at 50, George Square, Edinburgh, Sir J. Halliday Croom was re-elected Chairman for the ensuing year. Dr. J. Haig Ferguson was re-elected Deputy-Chairman. Committees were appointed with Sir Archibald Buchan-Hepburn, Bart., Convener of Penal Cases Committee, Sir Robert Kirk Inches, Convener of Finance Committee, and Sir J. Halliday Croom, Convener of the Examination Committee.

The List of Institutions, Teachers and Examiners was revised and approved for the ensuing year.

## LOUGHBORO' JUNCTION INFANTS' WELFARE CENTRE.

(Organisers: Sisters Olive and French.)

The following original invitation has been issued:—

### PARCEL TEA.

Wednesday, February 27th, 1918, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Please listen, kind friend, and don't be a cynic, While we tell you about our proposed Infant clinic. It's a saddening fact that babies die, And the rate of mortality's terribly high. For want of good help from those that are trained, So the causes of illness will all be explained To the mothers and others. Now, if to this end You will help in our work, the results you shall see. We hope then you'll come to our small parcel tea. Bring with you a parcel in value one shilling, We shall have quite a store for many are willing. Then sit down to tea, and when you have done, Buy a parcel from us, it's really great fun. We earnestly hope you'll make note of the day, And if, with regret, you must needs stay away, Perhaps for the good work your parcel you'll send, And trust to some neighbour your shilling to spend.

Mrs. Robins, "Woodcote," 83, Loughboro' Park, S.W. Tea, 6d.

We hope many of our readers will respond to this invitation.

## LECTURES ON INFANT CARE.

The following are forthcoming lectures on Infant Care, organised by the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, to be held at No. 1, Wimpole Street, London, W. Tickets, price 1s. each or 5s. the course, must be obtained in advance from Miss Halford, Secretary, 4, Tavistock Square, W.C. 1.

February 18th.—The Care of the New Born Infant. By Mrs. Shepherd, M.B., Medical Officer to the St. Pancras School for Mothers.

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