

# The Midwife.

## GWEN RHYS.

### A MIDWIFE OF THE OLD SCHOOL.

We are indebted to a correspondent, Mr. Rhys Jones, of Barmouth, for the following interesting details of the personality and work of the late Gwen Rhys, and for permission to publish her portrait. Mrs. Rhys successfully attended nearly 2,000 cases of midwifery in Barmouth, when no doctor resided in the town, and died at the age of 91, respected by all her fellow townspeople.

Mr. Rhys Jones writes:—"The old lady was well known in this neighbourhood about 50 years ago. I am told that the writer was one of the last that she received into this world, and my age is nearly 48. The nearest doctor to Barmouth during her long service was Dr. Owen, Crafnant, which is situated about eight miles off, near to the village of Llanaber, Merioneth. Gwen Rhys was highly respected and considered very able with all kinds of sickness and diseases. I am told that she went about visiting cases of sickness to the very last, and that it was due to her having contracted some fever from a patient that she became ill and died; she was warned not to go to the patient as she would surely contract the fever, but the faithful old dame replied that she would do her duty even if that was the consequence, and so she obeyed the dictate of her own conscience by doing what she could for those who suffered. She possessed all her faculties to the last and was blessed with great vitality. She had a number of recipes for various ailments which proved very successful, but her great work was that of midwifery in which she was always successful. A record of all these cases was in her possession and the book is still preserved by a grand-daughter of hers; another grand-daughter also survives at Aberdovey, the widow of a well-known bard named 'Talfardd.'



GWEN RHYS,  
A Successful Midwife in Barmouth.

"I have visited Llanaber Churchyard, near Barmouth, where the old lady is buried, and have extracted the following from the tombstone:—

"GWEN RHYS.

"Died April 24th, 1871.

"The 40 last years of her life were devoted to midwifery.

"Yr oeddiddi dir da gan bawl"

("There was to her a good word from everybody")

No midwife could desire a better epitaph.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE BILL.

A Bill to make further provision for the Health of Mothers and Young Children was presented by Mr. Hayes Fisher, on March 14th, in the House of Commons. Its object is to encourage local authorities to attend to the health of expectant and nursing mothers, and children under five, who are not being educated in schools recognised by the Board of Education.

## THE TEACHING OF MIDWIFERY.

A conference on "Ideals in the Teaching of Midwifery," open to all practical teachers

of midwifery, including those on the staff of training schools is to be held in London from May 29th to June 1st. The headquarters will be the Midwives' Institute, 12, Buckingham Street, Strand. The subscription will be 2s. 6d.

The aims of the Conference are:—(1) To raise the standard of teaching; (2) to educate midwives in up-to-date methods of teaching midwifery; (3) to impress the importance of pupils being trained to become practical practising midwives; (4) to discuss the advisability of a teachers' examination. The question is a most important one, and it is very advisable that it should be discussed by midwives.

Further particulars will appear shortly.

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