

lants, as the feeling of well-being they give relieves the exhaustion due to insufficiency of food.

Let us hope that the effect of the Maternity and Child Welfare Act will be to ensure that every expectant and nursing mother shall have a sufficiency of food, and that the health of children will be efficiently supervised until at school age they come under the care of the School Medical Officers.

THE ROYAL MATERNITY CHARITY OF LONDON.

The 161st Annual Report of the Royal Maternity Charity of London contains an interesting account of the "History, Objects and Work of the Charity" which was founded in the reign of King George the Second by some benevolent City merchants.

The following quaint excerpt is taken from the Annual Report of the Charity for 1812:—

"With a view singly to this species of distress was instituted, in the year 1757, the Charity for delivering Poor Married Women at their Own Habitations. The Objects of it are the POOR, the sober and industrious POOR, in one of the most perilous circumstances of human life. The Contributors to this Charity will soothe the anguish of many a Husband by relieving the Wife of his bosom, will alleviate the agonizing pains, prevent the sickness and death of many a valuable Woman, preserve the life of many an helpless Infant. Surely a design conceived for such amiable purposes as these can never want encouragement, while sentiments of tenderness are suffered to animate and influence the human heart."

The number of cases attended by the Charity's Midwives during 1917 have been 492. The Medical Committee report that it is gratifying not one mother's life has been lost and the infant mortality and still births show a remarkably low percentage.

SAME OLD POLICY.

There is naturally a good deal of feeling in Dublin at the action of the Irish Board of the College of Nursing "butting in" on the representation of Midwives on the Board set up under the Midwives (Ireland) Act, as it sedulously refrained from doing anything to secure direct representation on their own governing Body for Irish Midwives. So far as the "College" was concerned, the Bill might have excluded the Midwives; and it is owing entirely to the spirited action of the Irish Nurses' Association that the Bill was held up until justice was done and the right of representation secured, by the nomination by recognised Nurses' Associations in Ireland to the Local Government Board (Ireland), of certified midwives to serve on the Irish Midwives Board. As soon as the battle was won, the "College" demanded the right to help nominate, and in consequence a Conjoint Committee has been formed to consider the nomination of the Midwives' representatives, on which the following Midwives were appointed the delegates of the College Board: Miss Chisholm, Miss Hill. (Adelaide

Hospital), Miss Reed, and Miss Manser (Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast).

In the future, if the "College" is going to demand privileges, it should do the spade work and help to pay the cost. The same policy *re* State Registration of waiting until others had practically won the battle and then attempting to monopolise all the power and prestige is a policy as reprehensible as it is despicable, in the opinion of honourable women.

THE LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE MIDWIVES' ASSOCIATION.

At the fourth annual meeting of the above association, held on March 20th, at the G.F.S. Rooms, Leicester, Colonel Astley Clarke, M.D., presiding, an address on "The Place of Women in the Empire," by Mrs. Woods (wife of the Bishop of Peterborough), was much appreciated.

Five meetings of the committee and eleven general meetings have been held during the year. The lectures have been particularly well-attended; the number of those who subsequently take part in the discussions testify to their usefulness and to the interest taken in them.

The Association was most kindly entertained during the summer by Dr. and Mrs. Barnley at South Wigston; the Rev., Mrs. and Miss Hosking, at Coalville; Mrs. Blakeney, at Melton Mowbray; and by Miss Pell-Smith at a picnic at Ashby Parva. Most enjoyable afternoons were spent in every case.

The annual social meeting was held at the G.F.S. Rooms, on January 10th, 1918, at the kind invitation of Mrs. Dickinson, of Sheffield, when a most excellent variety entertainment was given by the district nurses.

The Association has lost by death during the year Nurse Feakin, of Market Harborough, whose loss is much regretted by the members. It has also lost a practical friend by the death of Mrs. Fielding Johnson, whose kindly interest will be greatly missed.

THE R.B.N.A. AND THE MIDWIVES BOARD.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING:

DEAR MADAM,—Will you answer the following question?—Had the Supplemental Charter superseded the original Charter, and the name Royal British Nurses' Association been superseded by that of Royal British College of Nursing, would not the right of the R.B.N.A. to nominate a representative on to the Central Midwives Board have lapsed?

Yours truly,

A CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

[Certainly the privilege would have lapsed as the R.B.N.A. is mentioned in the Midwives Act, as having power to nominate a member on the C.M.B., and if the Association had ceased to exist it could not appoint a representative.—Ed.]

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