

# The Midwife.

## NATIONAL BABY WEEK.

At a meeting of the National Baby Week Council, held at the Armitage Hall, 224, Great Portland Street, W. 1, on April 11th, when Sir James Boyton, M.P., presided, in the unavoidable absence of Lord Rhondda, the report of the Executive Committee was presented and accepted with its recommendations respecting the Baby Week celebrations in 1918. In accordance with these recommendations it was decided that Baby Week Celebrations should be organized this year, and that the date of the National Celebrations should be July 1st-7th. Included in the proposals are one for a two days' Conference in London to discuss Infant Welfare matters, and a Central Exhibition. The Exhibition arrangements are to be in the hands of the Committee of the N.U.W.W., dealing with Travelling Exhibitions subsidised by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust.

In regard to Provincial Celebrations, it is hoped they will take place simultaneously, but not the same week as the London Celebrations, in order that those interested in the provinces may be free to come up to London and so gain information and ideas useful to them in their local arrangements. It is also proposed that an effort shall be made to induce Local Authorities, and others in the Overseas Dominions to organise schemes for Baby Week Celebrations.

The adoption of the scheme was moved by Dr. Eric Pritchard, who said that it was proposed that the Conference should deal largely with Infant Welfare work, and that the Exhibition should be more technical than that of last year. It was hoped to arrange one big mass meeting, possibly at the Albert Hall, and that a large amount of printed matter should be distributed. The Executive Committee had secured two tons of paper for this purpose, and were preparing leaflets. Mothercraft competitions, on proper lines, were immensely educative.

This was seconded by the Duchess of Marlborough, who spoke of the necessity for interesting the older girls who have left school.

Mrs. H. B. Irving supported the proposition and referred to the successful celebrations of last year. They were successful because enthusiasm is most catching. Last year the Committee were feeling their way, and were held up for want of money. This year, owing to the money received from the Jewel Fund and other sources, they were in a better position.

There was not only the physical aspect to be considered. We were born into this world composite people, and Health, Education, and Religion were concerned in the development of body, mind and character.

The medical profession and teachers had given much help last year, but they did feel disappointed with the aloofness of the Churches and religious bodies. Their Early Victorian attitude that sickness was God's will must be swept away, and the doctrine proclaimed by Charles Kingsley, that health and godliness should go hand-in-hand, should be the ideal aimed at.

## A NEW INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

The Loughborough Junction Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre, 39, Loughborough Park, S.W. 9, was formally opened on Wednesday, April 10th, by Mrs. Percy Samuel. W. Haydon, Esq., L.C.C., took the chair, and spoke briefly of the ideals of the Centre. Mrs. Samuel then declared the Centre open, and expressed her pleasure in helping Sisters Olive and French in the scheme. Dr. Durno moved a warm vote of thanks.

There was then a tap at the door, and there entered a mother with her six-weeks-old baby, who thanked Mrs. Samuel on behalf of the mothers and babies, and presented a bunch of Malmaison carnations, the gift of Mrs. Robins, a member of the Committee. A tour was then made of the winsome and efficiently-equipped rooms. The doctor's infant clinic opened on Wednesday, April 17th.

## CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD FOR IRELAND.

A meeting of the Conjoint Committee will be held at 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, on Monday, April 22nd, at 3 p.m., to nominate three representatives to sit on the Central Midwives Board for Ireland. There should be little difficulty in making a representative selection, as Dublin is one of the most important Maternity Centres in the world, and the whole profession in Ireland owes a deep debt of gratitude to the Irish Nurses' Association in securing for midwives direct representation on their own Governing Body. There is little doubt that without the determined action of the I.N.A. the Irish, like the English, midwives would have been governed without consent. In England, so far, they are denied the privilege of electing working midwives on to the Central Midwives Board.

The Prime Minister, in his recent speech to the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee, now published, declared himself entirely in agreement with the principle of pensions for mothers.

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