

SCOTTISH MIDWIVES' ASSOCIATION.

The first Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Midwives Association was held in the Royal Maternity and Women's Hospital, Glasgow, on January 23rd, 1918, Mrs. Greenlees, Glasgow, presiding. There was a very good attendance of members.

A letter was read from the President, the Duchess of Montrose, expressing regret that she could not be present as chairman of the first annual meeting of the Association.

Letters of congratulation and helpful encouragement were read from Lady Balfour of Burleigh and Dr. Haig Ferguson, Edinburgh, both regretting their inability to be present.

The Chairman, having asked the secretary to read the report, said, in moving the adoption thereof, that it gave evidence of a year of good, solid work. As the chief object of the Association, as set forth in the constitution, is to promote the interests of midwives and to raise their status, she hoped that each member in giving her very best work, would realise that she was thus upholding the prestige of her Association. It was very gratifying to note the increase in membership since the first days of inauguration.

Dr. Chalmers, Medical Officer of Health for Glasgow, seconded the adoption of the report and said he considered the formation of the Scottish Midwives Association as a marked step onward. He impressed upon the members that though they were to be congratulated on progress in their first year, to the extent of 400 members and eight branches, still that number was a very small proportion of the number on the C.M.B. Roll (Scot.).

He emphasised the importance of educative work by the Association. The education of the midwives was a step forward in the prevention of infant mortality. The speaker took the opportunity of giving to the members a few helpful words on the correct attitude of the midwife towards the local supervising authority, in regard to doctor's fees when she had to send for help in special cases.

Dr. Jardine (one of the visiting physicians to the hospital and an examiner for the Central Midwives' Board), also addressed the meeting. He spoke with appreciation of the formation of the Association and hoped it would develop into an educational centre. He urged the midwives to take every opportunity of gaining more knowledge. He spoke of his gratification at the response made by the midwives in attendance at the post-graduate lectures given by him in the hospital. As they had, in their work, to be responsible for the lives of two people—mother and babe—it was very necessary for them to endeavour to get the best training.

He urged them to take advantage of the antenatal clinics at the hospital, for their patients.

Before closing, Dr. Jardine, as an examiner for the Central Midwives' Board, paid a tribute to the extensive knowledge evinced by a large number of candidates who entered for examination, without having had hospital training.

The re-election of the Duchess of Montrose as President and all the Vice-Presidents was unanimously carried.

Miss Baillie (Matron of the Royal Maternity and Women's Hospital, Glasgow), was elected Chairman of Council for 1918; and Miss Turnbull (Deaconess Hospital, Edinburgh), Vice-Chairman.

Miss Watt (Q.V.J.N., Motherwell), in proposing the election of new representatives of branches and the re-election of those standing again for 1918, took the opportunity of thanking the speakers for their stimulating and helpful addresses.

Miss Turnbull (Deaconess Hospital, Edinburgh), proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and speakers; and the Secretary was instructed to convey the thanks of the meeting to Lady Balfour of Burleigh and Dr. Haig Ferguson for their kind and helpful letters.

This vote of thanks was very heartily given, as was the vote of thanks to Miss Baillie and the Directors of the Hospital for kind permission to hold the meeting there, proposed by Mrs. Cooper (Glasgow).

Miss Baillie had very kindly arranged for tea to be served. This was greatly enjoyed and the members had an opportunity for social discussion.

LECTURES ON INFANT CARE.

Lady Barrett delivered the first lecture of an advanced course on Infant Care, organised by the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, on Monday, January 28th, at 1, Wimpole Street, her subject being the Development of the Embryo in Uteri.

Her lecture was illustrated by lantern slides showing the virgin uterus and ovaries, and following the various stages of the impregnated uterus until full time.

February 4th.—Pregnancy as affected by Maternal Disease. By J. S. Fairbairn, Esq., M.A., M.B., F.R.C.S.

THE WEDDING GIFT.

On going into Committee on the National Health Insurance Bill on Tuesday, Viscount Sandhurst announced that he would bring in an amendment on the Report stage, which would meet the wishes of Viscount Knutsford with regard to the marriage gift to insured women. The proposal would be withdrawn, and the money would be given in the form of maternity benefit. Lord Knutsford said the action of the Government had disarmed his opposition. The £2 wedding gift was now as dead as the Dodo, and the money would be used for the purposes for which it had been subscribed.

The Bill then passed through Committee, with amendments.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

Go back to the simple life, be contented with simple food, simple pleasures, simple clothes, work hard, pray hard, play hard, work, eat, recreate, and sleep. Do it all courageously. We have a victory to win.—*Mr. Hoover.*

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