

# The Midwife.

## THE ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING THE TRAINING AND SUPPLY OF MIDWIVES.

The fourteenth annual meeting of the Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives was held, by kind permission of Mrs. Mackinnon, at 10, Hyde Park Gardens, W., on Thursday, March 20th.

The chair was announced to be taken by Her Royal Highness the Princess Christian; but, although present, she had commissioned the Marquess of Salisbury to occupy it in her place.

Lord Salisbury, in opening the meeting, said that unlike much of the voluntary work that was undertaken during the war, this was a permanent need, and it was one that must appeal to the heart and conscience. Nothing was more vital than that the losses in our population caused by the war should be filled with healthy children. Experience and science had secured that the best possible chance could be given to the mothers and children of the country if funds were available. In connection with the Midwives' Amendment Bill, lately passed, the leaders of the Association had so impressed Parliament by their representations that it had no choice but to accept their view. The ladies who had waited on Members had convinced them that they understood the subject in hand.

Mrs. Ebdon, in moving the adoption of the report, advocated the cordial relation of the midwife to the maternity and child welfare centres and of the necessity of urging the mothers to avail themselves of the latter. The saving of infant life, she said, was the saving of the nation. There was an increasing number of skilled midwives, but it would never be adequate without adequate pay. A midwife could not earn a living wage without undertaking more cases than she could properly attend. The State should guarantee a fee of twenty-five shillings a case. This would cost the Exchequer £1,000,000 a year, but what was that sum against 100,000 potential citizens?

Mr. Leon, the Hon. Treasurer, said that out of the many loans to assist women in their teaching as midwives they had had very few bad debts. Midwives almost invariably repaid their loans. At the present, thousands of women were being discharged from Government occupations, and some had already applied for assistance to take up their midwifery course. The training of a midwife cost about £40. He appealed for subscribers to enable these grants to be made.

Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon then gave an eloquent address on the Ministry of Health, and the proposed transfer to it of various functions of various authorities.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to Her Royal Highness for her presence, and the guests were afterwards entertained to a very ample tea.  
H. H.

## CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

### MONTHLY MEETING.

The Monthly Meeting of the Central Midwives Board took place on March 20th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

On the recommendation of the Standing Committee the Board decided that Mr. H. G. Westley, M.A., LL.B. Camb., Assistant Town Clerk of Southwark, be appointed Assistant Secretary.

A letter was received from the Clerk of the Council conveying the approval of the Lords of the Council of the proposed scale of expenses to be paid to members of the Board in respect of their attendance at meetings of the Board, under the provision of Section 4 of the Midwives Act, 1918: viz: "First-class travelling expenses and subsistence allowance at the rate of 20s. a night (to cover 24 hours' absence), and 6s. 8d. for absence from home during the day exceeding five hours."

The Board declined to accede to a request from the Town Clerk of Swansea that Examination Questions for Welsh-speaking candidates should be set in the Welsh language, and that they should be permitted to give their answers in Welsh, as it considered that any case of imperfect acquaintance with the Welsh language was adequately met by the presence of a Welsh interpreter at the Oral Examination at Bristol, as has been the practice for many years.

A letter was received from the Town Clerk of Liverpool enclosing a copy of a resolution adopted at a Conference between representatives of the Maternity and Child Welfare sub-Committee of the City of Liverpool, the Liverpool and District Trained Midwives' Association, and the Liverpool Maternity Hospital relating to the training and education of midwives, and unanimously approved by other bodies, including the Liverpool City Council.

The resolution urged that the present low standard of preliminary training and education required from midwives is wholly inadequate, and contrary to the best interests of Maternity and Child Welfare.

It was decided to inform the Town Clerk of Liverpool that the resolution would be taken into consideration on the next revision of the Rules.

A letter was received from the Clerk of the Council with reference to a suggested amendment of the Note at the end of draft Rule E. 12. A.,

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