

The Midwife.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INFANT WELFARE.

KINGSWAY HALL, KINGSWAY, W.C. 1,
(Organised by the National League for Health
Maternity and Child Welfare.)

PROGRAMME.

TUESDAY, JULY 1ST.

Inaugural Address by the Right Hon. Christopher Addison, M.P., M.D.

Subject for Discussion.—Ante-natal and Neo-Natal Mortality and its Prevention.

MORNING SESSION, 10-1 p.m. *Chairman*: Sir Arthur Newsholme, K.C.B., M.D.

Papers.—The Causes of Ante-natal Disease and Death. Dr. Amand Routh.

The Results to be expected from Ante-natal Care. Dr. Eardley Holland and Dr. Morna Rawlins.

AFTERNOON SESSION, 2.30-4.30 p.m. *Chairman*: Sir Malcolm Morris, M.D.

Papers.—The Racial Poisons and the Racial Prospect. Dr. C. W. Saleeby, Dr. J. J. Buchan and others.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2ND.

MORNING SESSION, 10-1 p.m. *Chairman*: Sir Francis Champneys, Bart., M.D., F.R.C.P.

Subject for Discussion.—The Work of the Midwife in relation to Ante-Natal and Neo-Natal Mortality.

Papers.—Dr. Fairbairn, Dr. Vera Foley, Miss Helen Burnside.

AFTERNOON SESSION, 2.30-4.30 p.m. *Chairman*: Mrs. Scharlieb, C.B.E., M.D., M.S.

Subject for Discussion.—The Industrial Employment of Mothers in Relation to Infant Mortality.

Papers.—Dr. Rhoda Adamson, Miss Barker, C.B.E., Mrs. Holden.

THURSDAY, JULY 3RD.

Subject for Discussion.—The Illegitimate Child. MORNING SESSION, 10-1 p.m. *Chairman*: Sir John Kirk.

Papers.—The Destitute Unmarried Mother. Lady Nott Bower.

The Legislative Aspect of the Illegitimate Child. Mr. Robert Parr (N.S.P.C.C.), and the Lord Bishop of Kensington.

AFTERNOON SESSION, 2.30-4.30 p.m. *Chairman*: Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher.

Paper.—Criminal Abortions and Abortifacients. Mrs. Gotto, O.B.E., Dr. Whitley, M.O.H., Swindon.

The Unwanted Babe. Miss Cox (Salvation Army).

Fee for membership of Conference.—Local Authorities and General Public, £1 (including Papers). Concessions to midwives, trained nurses, and members of local health societies. Apply Secretary National League for Health, Maternity and Child Welfare, 4 and 5, Tavistock Square, London, W.C. 1.

A CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT AT GUY'S.

We learn that the Governors of Guy's Hospital have authorised a scheme for a children's department. Guy's is so far one of the hospitals which has not had a children's ward; now it is proposed to have such wards, containing about 50 beds, close to the maternity ward. There is also an ante-natal centre in an adjoining building which will supervise the ante-natal care of 2,000 to 3,000 expectant mothers. Altogether, in the area to which the hospital is accessible, there are to be twelve of such centres, and the out-patient children's department will enable those attending the centres to have the advantage of diagnosis and treatment at the hospital when necessary.

This will enable medical students to include infant welfare in their studies, and we understand that it is contemplated giving pupils the opportunity of gaining a diploma in this subject. This is a thing which the College of Nursing, Ltd., may not do! We are glad to hear that Guy's is moving forward in this matter, but we do not think the arrangement that the children's wards shall be close to the maternity wards a desirable one. From time to time cases of infectious disease crop up in children's wards, and it is, above everything necessary to keep maternity patients away from contact with such diseases.

THE PROBLEM OF THE UNMARRIED MOTHER.

The problem of the unmarried mother and her child is always a difficult one to deal with, but the opinion of those best able to judge—an opinion which is founded on the natural law, and is therefore unassailable—is that every effort should be made to prevent the separation of mother and child. Recently, a hostel, to accommodate twelve unmarried mothers and their children, erected by voluntary effort, with the help of the Local Government Board, has been opened at Ramsgate, being dedicated by the Bishop of Dover, with the support of a large number of social workers in the Isle of Thanet.

The local Town Council, on the recommendation of the Sanitary Committee, has strongly protested and passed a resolution asking for its removal. Has the Town Council any alternative scheme to propose before endeavouring to deprive these mothers of shelter and care, and presumably of the probation and training which will enable them eventually to support themselves and their children? Such help often decides whether a woman shall become a useful member of society, or a charge upon the state.

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