

The Midwife.

NAVAL MATERNITY HOMES.

Lady Beatty, the wife of the famous Admiral of the Fleet, is making an earnest appeal for £150,000 for the rebuilding of a Maternity Home at Plymouth for the wives of men of the lower deck, and for the establishment of similar institutions at Portsmouth and Chatham.

It is estimated that the cost of erecting a suitable building at Plymouth and equipping it with all modern improvements will be £50,000, while £100,000 would be necessary to erect and equip similar institutions at Portsmouth and Chatham, where two small Maternity Homes, quite inadequate for the requirements of those important centres, are in existence.

The Navy League has generously promised to contribute £10,000 for each of the three ports, provided the other £40,000 for each port is subscribed by the public.

Lady Beatty urges quite rightly that the work now being carried on is deeply appreciated by the men of the Fleet, and that the public owe an immense debt to our sailors, and this is a splendid opportunity for them to discharge it, in part at least.

"THE HOSPITAL" ATTACK ON QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITAL.

We learn upon enquiry that the Committee of Queen Charlotte's Hospital have had the conditions under which the pupils are trained under consideration for some time past, and that they will consider the criticisms appearing in the "Hospital" newspaper at their meeting in October. The nursing and hospital world now take very little notice of the slashing attacks on institutions and persons through this discredited medium. Like the majority of hospitals, Queen Charlotte's has had immense difficulties to face during the war.

THE MIDWIFE.

The Tynemouth Board of Guardians has been consulting its senior officials with reference to the re-organisation of the Nursing Staff, and have decided not to provide the costly instruction in massage; and to abolish the Massage Certificate established in connection with the Training School; they have also decided to prepare a limited number of nurses for the examination of the Central Midwives' Board, to induce a limited number to remain.

The following recommendations were agreed to:

(1) That it is desirable, in order to secure a return to normal conditions, by which an equal proportion of the probationer nurses completed their training each year, the services of seven of the present senior probationers be retained for the ensuing twelve months.

(2) That in order to offer these nurses an adequate inducement to remain in the service of the Guardians for this period, they be appointed at the expiration of their period of three years' training as temporary Staff Nurses at a salary of £25 per annum, with war bonus on scale, and that arrangements be made, if possible, for them to take, under the supervision of a midwife in general practice, the balance of their cases to enable them to qualify for the examination of the Central Midwives' Board.

(3) That inasmuch as this arrangement will necessitate the absence of these nurses from the hospital from time to time, the staff of probationer nurses be temporarily increased by two for relief duty.

(4) That an application be made to the Central Midwives' Board for the recognition of the Medical Officer of the Institution as a Lecturer in Midwifery.

(5) That the Clerk be instructed to enter into negotiations with an outside midwife with a view to arranging for her to take the seven probationers above referred to, for practical training in connection with her practice amongst the outside public, and for these services she be paid a fee of £5 for each nurse so trained in preparation for the examination for the Central Midwives' Board.

"DISGRACE TO THE UNIFORM."

The following paragraph has gone the rounds of the daily press:—

The question of girls belonging to the Services becoming chargeable to Guardians was raised at last week's meeting of the Hampstead Board.

Mrs. M. W. Nevinson moved that, owing to the number of W.A.A.C.s and W.R.A.F.s who had become chargeable to the parish for confinement (six since July), none of whom belonged to the parish, the War Office be asked to provide lying-in accommodation for these young women, and that the question ought to be a national, not a parochial one. She further said that the girls should not come under the Poor Law. Soldiers felt very strongly on the matter, and considered such a procedure was a disgrace to the King's uniform. Apart from that, the charge should be on the Army authorities. Miss Herford seconded, and remarked that the men, too, had disgraced the King's uniform.

Mrs. Nevinson agreed, but pointed out that for doing so they had not been sent to the workhouse.

The resolution was carried by nine votes to two.

That a certain number of illegitimate births were to be expected in the conjoint services, by anyone who recognised the danger of propinquity of the sexes—under recent circumstances—was a foregone conclusion, and we agree that some foresight might have been shown, by the heads of these corps.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)