

The Midwife.

THE LEWISHAM MATERNITY HOME.

The Lewisham Borough Council is indeed to be congratulated on its splendid Maternity Home. This was the first of its kind to be initiated, and was opened by Her Majesty Queen Mary, on June 1st, 1918.

The Council were fortunate enough to secure a residence, formerly occupied by a medical practitioner, and which was easily adapted.

It is situated in the main road, about the centre of the borough, so being within easy access for all residents who are anxious to avail themselves of the comfort and care so easily obtained.

There is a spacious hall, and from it lead off a large nurses' dining room, the clinic room (in which, daily, babies are weighed and their progress watched until they are five years old).

There is also the doctor's consultation room, the Matron's office; and, leading out of these, the examination room and dispensary.

Passing up the staircase, which is tastefully decorated with dark-brown "Lin-crusta" and oak panelling, one comes to the wards. These are three in number, very bright and cheery, with their pale-green washed walls and white enamel paint; white beds with swinging cots fitted at the foot of each bed and hung with white frills. Each ward contains four beds and a cheery fire is kept burning for the convalescent patients who are allowed to remain up.

There is a beautifully equipped labour ward on the same floor, and also the Matron's bed-sitting room. On the second floor are the nurses' and maids' bed rooms and large store cupboards.

There is a good-sized garden at the back of the house, and at the end stands the laundry. This was formerly the stable and garage.

Each patient contributes to the upkeep of the Home, according to her husband's income, and many an anxious time has been avoided by securing a vacancy.

Unfortunately, the applications far exceed the number that can be accommodated; but it is hoped in a very short time to enlarge the Home and also to open a crèche, where the babies may be daily cared for whilst the mother helps to swell the income, to cope with the high expenses of the present day.

Several homes to be conducted on similar lines will in due course be opened in various parts of the country, and anyone desirous of viewing the Home and of obtaining any useful information will be welcome by appointment with the Matron, Miss F. Murby, Lewisham and Catford Maternity Home, Bushey Green, Catford.

Such homes should be most useful factors amongst the agencies for raising the national health.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING THE TRAINING AND SUPPLY OF MIDWIVES.

The Annual Meeting of the Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives was held on March 24th at 23, Cromwell Road, South Kensington, by kind permission of Mrs. S. Bruce. Lieut.-Colonel Fremantle, M.P., L.C.C., Consulting Medical Officer for Hertfordshire, was in the chair, and the adoption of the Annual Report was moved by Mrs. Ebdon (Chairman of the Executive Committee).

The Report stated that the principal matters which have occupied the attention of the Committee have been the consideration of the measures taken by the Board of Education, and the work entailed in providing a wider field for the training of the Association's candidates. It is further stated that after many years of happy associations with the Plaistow authorities the Committee found it necessary to terminate their Agreement, and although still sending a few of their candidates to East Ham, the Home is no longer an integral part of the scheme of the Association. The candidates accepted this year have been trained at the City of London Maternity Hospital, the East End Mothers' Home, the East Ham Home, Lady Holland's Maternity Home, Leicester Maternity Hospital, Liverpool Maternity Hospital, Worcester Nursing Institution, and York Road General Lying-in Hospital.

Twenty-three pupils have entered training during the year, some to work as independent midwives, and others under County Associations. The applications received for training were 639 in number, nearly 400 in excess of those received last year, but many of those discharged from war work merely wished to obtain the Central Midwives Board Certificate, and others, on investigation, proved quite unfit to take up this profession.

Miss Ford, who for many years held the position of Secretary to the Association, resigned to the deep regret of the Committee, to take up other work in September last. The office has been filled by the appointment of Miss Ethel B. Grant.

We understand that the grant to the Midwives' Institute, reported in the press as "a welcome gift from the British Red Cross Society," was, more accurately, a grant from the Central Council for Infant and Child Welfare, which is composed of two representatives of each of the associated societies and six representatives of the British Red Cross Society. The grant was made from the proceeds of the "Victory" Ball last autumn. The offices of the Central Council are at 20, Berkeley Street, W., next to the new offices of the British Red Cross Society, and Sir Arthur Stanley is its chairman.

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