

The Midwife.

THE INFANTS' HOSPITAL.

The Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, Westminster, S.W.1, fulfils a most useful and unique function, and all midwives and district nurses should acquaint themselves with its work. It has two objects: (1) To place the management of infants and the treatment of the disorders and diseases of nutrition occurring in infants upon a scientific basis; and (2) to investigate and demonstrate the means by which the prevalent disease and mortality among infants may be prevented. Like most voluntary hospitals, it is suffering from a depleted exchequer and a growing debt, attributed in the annual report to the income not having increased sufficiently to meet the advance in price of commodities and labour. It would, however, be a national loss if the fine work of this hospital were restricted or imperilled for lack of support, and we hope its friends will come to the rescue. The teaching, by precept and practice, as to the supreme importance of a pure milk supply and the Lectures on Infant Feeding and Management intended for nurses, health visitors, and others interested in the study of infant life delivered periodically by the physicians in the Lecture Theatre of the Hospital, are of very great value. They should, indeed, be even more widely used and known than at the present time, and pupil midwives, in addition to the work required of them by the Central Midwives Board, would acquire valuable knowledge if they attended one of these courses of lectures, particulars of which are obtainable from the Secretary of the Hospital.

The training of nurses for infants is also an important part of the work of the hospital, and before their probationary period (eighteen months) is complete they receive an extended and practical training in the care and management of babies.

THE ECONOMICS OF MATERNITY.

The Second Summer School organised by the National Union of Societies for Equal Suffrage to be held at Ruskin College, Oxford, from Saturday, August 28th, to Saturday, September 11th, is of special as well as general interest. One of the subjects to be considered is "The Economics of Maternity," including the Problem of Population, National Family Endowment, Widows' Pensions and the Unmarried Mother.

The object of the Summer School is to meet the needs of men and women interested in problems of citizenship, both local and national, with special regard to women's questions. In particular it aims at providing for women who desire it

a short intensive preparation for the new opportunities of work opened up by recent legislation, including the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act. Information can be obtained from the Directors, N.U.S.E.S. Summer School, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W.1.

THE EFFECT OF HOUSING AND SANITARY CONDITIONS ON MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE IN INDIA.

A correspondent of the *Pioneer*, says the *Lancet*, makes some pertinent remarks on this subject. On all sides schemes are being promoted to improve the condition of Indian mothers and to provide skilled attendance at childbirth. But their antenatal conditions cannot be ameliorated until the housing conditions have been improved. Improvement is not likely to be rapid, since the housing of menial classes, even of those employed by Government mills, railways, &c., under European or educated supervision, is still very bad. The employees are lodged in rooms 10 ft. by 10 ft., and more often than not built back-to-back to save a party wall. The usual type of house has in front a useless 5 ft. verandah and a zenana courtyard surrounded by a 7 ft. wall, in which is also housed the family's latrine. This arrangement effectively prevents the entrance of light and air into these cells, the condition of which with neither light nor through ventilation is anything but conducive to general health of a family. Improvement of antenatal conditions for an expectant mother is thus impossible. It is useless under these conditions of housing to talk of inculcating domestic sanitation and hygiene; nor, considering the dirty earthen floors and the cells used as living rooms, can infantile mortality be reduced from the appalling figure at present prevailing among the poorer Indian classes.

SMITH v. CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

In the King's Bench Division of the High Courts of Justice on Thursday, April 15th, Mrs. Lucy Smith applied for her costs in connection with her appeal to the Courts against the removal of her name from the Roll of the Central Midwives Board on April 16th, 1919.

When the case originally came before the High Court, it was sent back to the Central Midwives Board who retried it, in view of the fact that fresh evidence was available when the resolution directing the removal of Mrs. Smith's name was rescinded. Mrs. Smith then applied for her costs, but at the hearing before the Lord Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Avory, and Mr. Justice Roche, the judgment was that both sides should pay their own costs.

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