

# The Midwife.

## NATIONAL BABY WEEK,

JULY 1st-7th, 1920.

### MESSAGE TO THE NATIONAL BABY WEEK COUNCIL FROM H.M. THE QUEEN.

"I note with pleasure that the National Baby Week Council enters upon its fourth year of work on July 1st. I have followed with much interest the work of the Council, of which I am Patron, and I send my earnest wishes for its future success."  
—MARY R."

There will be no central celebrations in London this year, but celebrations are being held all over the United Kingdom. Information as to the hours at which visitors are welcome at Day Nurseries in or near London may be had from the Secretary, National Society of Day Nurseries, 20, Berkeley Street, W.1. (Phone Mayfair 2100); the hour at which centres are open may be had from the National Baby Week Council, 27a, Cavendish Square, W.1. (Phone Mayfair 2977).

### NATIONAL MOTHERCRAFT COMPETITIONS.

Display of articles sent in for the Competitions at Cosway Street L.C.C. Schools, W.1, Saturday, July 10th, 3 to 5. Entrance 6d.

## CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

At the Monthly Meeting of the Central Midwives Board, held at the Board's Offices, Queen Anne's Buildings, S.W.1., the question of a representation to the Ministry of Health with regard to modifying the Constitution of the Board was considered, and in connection therewith a letter was read from the Ministry of Health. The Board agreed that a representation be made to the Minister of Health under Section 1 (1) of the Midwives Act, 1918, that it is expedient to modify the Constitution of the Board as indicated by the Memorandum now approved by the Board and signed by the Chairman. The following is the Memorandum referred to:—

### MEMORANDUM.

(NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES, 14.)

Four persons appointed by the Minister of Health, of whom two shall be certified midwives, on the English Midwives Roll.

Four registered medical practitioners appointed as provided by the Midwives Act 1902 Section (3) 1.

Two certified midwives on the English Midwives Roll appointed by the Incorporated Midwives Institute.

One person appointed by the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses.

One person appointed by the Association of County Councils.

One person appointed by the Association of unicipal Corporations.

One person appointed by the Society of Medical Officers of Health.

PROVISO.—Notwithstanding anything herein

contained to the contrary the number of midwives on the Board shall at no time exceed five.

### EXCLUSION OF REPRESENTATIVE OF ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

It will be noticed that in the proposed constitution of the Board the Royal British Nurses' Association, which has had representation on the Board since its formation in 1902, is eliminated. This would exclude representation of trained nurse-midwives qualified to supervise maternity hospitals, homes, and wards.

We observe with satisfaction that the Board recommends the appointment of four certified midwives on the re-constituted Board. The present constitution of the Board does not secure one seat to a midwife, and to organise a profession without representation of its members on its governing body is an obsolete method which requires drastic re-organisation.

We wish, however, that the Central Midwives Board had recommended that the certified midwives should elect their own direct representatives, as the registered nurses are to do, instead of disfranchising all who are not members of the Midwives Institute, and we most thoroughly disapprove of the proviso that the number of midwives on a Board of fourteen members shall at no time exceed five, firstly because nominating bodies should not be limited in their selection, and secondly because the midwives ought to be in a majority on their governing body. We hope, therefore, that due weight will be given to these points before the new constitution of the Board is adopted.

At the same meeting the Board approved a scheme providing for a course of forty hours' instruction in one week for approved teachers, and those desiring to be approved teachers, drawn up by the Midwives Institute, and resolved to notify the London County Council of such approval with a view to an education grant being made in support of the scheme.

We wonder what proportion of such intensive instruction will be retained after a short time by its recipients. However, the proposition is an "opening wedge," and we hope that the scheme will be developed so that aspirants for approval as teachers may have a course of practical training in teaching under instructors versed in educational methods—we could mention midwives eminently qualified to give such instruction—and be required to give a practical demonstration of their ability to teach, before appointed representatives of the Board, prior to receiving its approval as teachers.

## THE MIDWIFERY CONFERENCE.

Several very interesting addresses were given at the Midwifery Conference at the Royal Horticultural Hall last week, to which we hope to refer in a future issue.

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