

The Midwife.

MIDWIFERY IN 1920.

During the year that is past the new constitution of the Central Midwives' Board, in accordance with the Midwives Act, 1918, under which the Central Midwives may make recommendations for additions to the Board, or for the discontinuance of representatives of certain bodies, have been under the consideration of the Minister of Health. So far the new constitution of the Board has not been made public.

An effort, which has been liberally subsidised by the Board of Education, has been made by the Midwives' Institute to provide a week's course of instruction for Approved Teachers. Most advances, whether educational or otherwise, are usually made as the result of private initiative, but it is certain that eventually the Central Midwives' Board should itself define a curriculum for approved teachers, and satisfy itself by examination, and observation of the methods of teaching employed by candidates for approval, that they have the knowledge and ability to instruct pupils.

We are beginning to realise that the duty of the midwife to her patient does not begin with the labour and terminate in ten days' time, but stretches both backwards and forwards. The midwife should receive the confidence of the patient early in pregnancy, should watch over her during the fateful months that follow, advising, if she discovers any symptoms which suggest its expediency, that a doctor should be consulted, and generally watching over the welfare of her future patient.

During the first year of the infant's life, to whom does a mother turn naturally for help in her perplexities? Surely to the midwife whom she has proved to be a true and faithful friend, who has been with her in her hour of trial, brought her baby (perhaps several babies) into the world, on whom she has learned, and not in vain, to lean.

The same principle applies to the relations of trained nurses to their patients. They have been down into the depths with them, have watched with them at the bedsides of their nearest and dearest, have rejoiced with them over renewed health, and sorrowed with and consoled them in bereavement. That is why nurses and midwives who undertake the duties of health visitors have a hold on the people, and command a docility and interest when they lay down the laws of health which a woman who has not had these experiences can never hope to attain, though she may be learned in the latest hygienic methods, and possess every known certificate as a sanitary and hygienic expert.

Midwives also are realising more and more the satisfying nature of the work they have adopted.

They see that the thing of supreme importance is the continuance of the Race, and that it rests greatly in their hands whether it shall be strong and virile, pure and noble, or weak, degenerate and base, and they see, moreover, that no trouble is too great to ensure that as far as in them lies the Race shall be well born. There is no higher patriotism than that of the midwife, who, forgetful of self, and conscientious in her work, strives always for the betterment and uplift of those amongst whom her life is spent.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

PENAL CASES.

A special meeting of the Central Midwives Board to consider the charges alleged against seven certified midwives, was held at the Board Room, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, on Tuesday, December 21st at 10.30 a.m. with the following results:—

Struck off the Roll and Certificate Cancelled.—Ellen Clay (No. 677), Mary Morgan (No. 22286), Mary Till (No. 34807), Olive Walker (No. 1524).

Report of L.S.A. to be asked for in Three and Six Months' Time.—Sarah Maria Beesley (No. 38101), Rose Ann Borrowdale (No. 49601).

Consideration of the seventh case was postponed.

TWO NOTABLE BOOKS.

Two books recently received from Mr. Henry Kimpton, 263, High Holborn, W.C.1, are the second edition of "Infant Education," by Dr. Eric Pritchard, revised and enlarged, price 6s. net, and the seventh edition of a "Practical Text Book of Midwifery for Nurses," by Dr. Robert Jardine, Professor of Midwifery in St. Mungo's College, Glasgow, and Consulting Obstetric Physician to the Glasgow Royal Maternity and Women's Hospital, Glasgow. Concerning the seventh edition of this valuable and standard work the author tells us that very few alterations have been found necessary in this edition, but the text has been brought up to date, and three new illustrations have been added. The price is 7s. 6d. net, and the title page is inscribed with the following words: "To the Matron of the Glasgow Royal Maternity and Women's Hospital, and to the Nurses of that Institution I dedicate this book, in recognition of the zeal and devotion with which they perform their duties.—ROBERT JARDINE."

We hope to review "Infant Education" in an early issue. It is a notable book, which should be in the hands of every mother, and of every nurse or midwife concerned with the rearing of young children. We most cordially recommend it.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)