

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

We welcome the nominations of Miss M. Olive Haydon and Miss Gladys M. Le Geyt to seats on the Central Midwives Board by the Minister of Health. Miss Haydon is an experienced midwife and brilliant teacher, and Miss Le Geyt is representative of the highly trained group of midwives who are also trained nurses—an ideal to be aimed at.

The Society of Medical Officers of Health have nominated Dr. Robert A. Lyster, M.O.H. for Hampshire, as their representative.

THE WIFE AND MOTHER.

A MEDICAL GUIDE TO THE CARE OF HER HEALTH AND THE MANAGEMENT OF HER CHILDREN.

The fact that "The Wife and Mother" by Dr. Albert Westland, M.A., M.D., C.M., is now in its seventh edition is a proof of its popularity, and an indication of its usefulness. The book is published by Messrs. Charles Griffin & Co., Ltd., Exeter Street, Strand, W.C. 2, at the modest price of 5s. It is a book which nurses and midwives, when asked by young mothers to tell them of one which will be of use to them, may with confidence recommend.

The book is divided into four parts. Part I: Early Married Life, dealing with its duties and responsibilities up to, and including, the first confinement.

The author begins by pointing out that "Every young woman who enters into what are conventionally called 'the bonds of matrimony,' voluntarily accepts certain responsibilities, and undertakes certain duties, not only important in themselves, but noteworthy also in this, that their neglect and repudiation may be followed by far-reaching consequences to others. Convention has decreed that those duties and responsibilities should be discovered mainly by wives after marriage, and it is seldom indeed that mothers are judicious or enlightened enough to place before their marriageable daughters even a partial view of the difficulties and troubles which almost every married woman will have to face at some period of her married life. . . . It is certainly desirable that women on entering married life should be aware that calls will be made upon their courage, their temper, and their forbearance; and should take what is undoubtedly the most decisive step of their lives with some knowledge of its importance and gravity, and some sense of the great influence which marriage must exercise on all their future career."

The author impresses on his readers the influence which maternal characteristics may have upon children, and, on expectant mothers, the propriety

and desirability of conscientiously regulating their conduct during pregnancy and in motherhood, so that right impulses and healthy energies should spread outward in an increasing wave through successive generations. He reminds us also that "it is related in the life of the Rev. Charles Kingsley, that when his mother was aware that she was about to bear a child, she firmly resolved that during her pregnancy she would allow no external troubles to influence her mind, and that, living in a beautiful country, she would give up as much time as possible to the contemplation of natural beauty, and to admiration of the works of the Almighty; and it is easy to believe that the thorough sympathy with nature, and the earnest humanity, which characterised the author of 'The Water Babies' and 'Yeast' were due in great measure to the mental attitude of his mother during the months preceding his birth."

We feel impelled to make one or two minor criticisms of a book which contains so much of value. Thus, in connection with the illustration of Higginson's syringe which appears on page 23, the bulb should not be held, as represented, between the thumb and forefinger, but should be grasped by the palm of the hand, and all four fingers as well as the thumb. Also, on page 43, when syringing the vagina, it is advised that the solution used should be Condyl's Fluid, Sanitas, Jeyes' Disinfectant, or carbolic acid, two tablespoonfuls of the first three, or one tablespoonful of carbolic acid to a pint of warm water. No strength is mentioned in relation to carbolic acid, and, if it is intended that the pure crystals should be used, making a solution of 1 part carbolic to 39 of water, then the method of mixing should be explained.

In regard to the remarks as to the protection of the bed during the first and third stages of labour by waterproof sheeting, we entirely concur, but the careful nurse and midwife will be further prepared for the "bursting of the waters," and the reception of the afterbirth, by having at hand a kidney tray or other receptacle; and it is a matter of some professional pride with her that when the "labour mackintosh" and sanitary pad, or folded draw sheet, are removed there should be no spot on the bed, and no necessity for changing or even drawing the ordinary draw-sheet.

Part II deals with "Early Motherhood: Convalescence from Confinement, and The Mother in relation to the Infant." Part III with "The Child," its normal development, general care, nutrition, physical and mental training, Some congenital defects, Hints upon nursing during illness, Minor troubles of the earlier months of infant life, Disorders associated with dentition, Common maladies of children, and Management of some emergencies. Part IV relates to "Later Married Life," and the Menopause, and there is a useful appendix.

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