

- 2 p.m. Visits to Marylebone Infants' Clinic, British Mothers and Babies Home, Woolwich, City Road Maternity Hospital.
- 6 p.m. Lecture by Mr. Richardson—"The Causes of Ante-natal and Neo-natal Death of the Foetus."

MAY 27TH, FRIDAY.

- 11 a.m. Demonstration on the preparation of Artificial Feeds. Some observations on the use of morphia in Hospital.
- 3 p.m. Clinical Lecture by Dr. Stebbings at Lambeth Infirmary.
- 5.30 p.m. Test Paper (optional). Prizes given.
- 7.30 p.m. Lecture at the Midwives Institute (Tickets 6d. each)—"History of Antiseptics and the Lesson to be Learnt from it"—Dr. Abernethy Willett.

Ante-natal Clinic daily 9 a.m. (numbers limited).
Subscription for Course, 6s. (payable in advance).

Will those who wish to join, send in their names as soon as possible to K. V. CONI (Sister), Hon. Secretary.

ASSOCIATION OF INSPECTORS.

The Annual Conference and Post-Graduate Week of the Association of Inspectors of Midwives will be held in London from May 2nd to May 6th. The Annual Meeting will be held at the Midwives Institute, 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, at 2.30 p.m. on May 4th.

THE UNMARRIED MOTHER.

Dr. D. Steele-Perkins, Medical Officer of Health, wrote recently to the Honiton Board of Guardians suggesting that it would be a great boon to the district if the lying-in wards at the Poor-Law Institution could be made use of by the general public on payment of fees. He said further: "The Honiton District Nursing Association, to which I believe the Guardians subscribe, have, for reasons best known to themselves, refused to allow their certified nurses to attend any woman who is not married, in her confinement. The Nursing Association constitute themselves judges over a woman's morals when their duty should be to provide skilled nurses."

This statement, incontrovertible in its logic, seems to have aroused the anger of the Rector, the Hon. and Rev. F. L. Courtenay, who said Dr. Perkins had had his knife into the Committee ever since it had refused to allow him to boss the nursing home. He would like to explain that the reason why the Honiton Nursing Association refused to allow its nurses to attend on cases of illegitimate births was not simply to down girls, but to protect the respectable married women of the district from the possibility of infection in the present prevalence of venereal disease.

Why endeavour to bolster up an untenable and un-Christian practice with such a rotten argument? It assumes, firstly, that no married women suffer from venereal disease, which, unfortunately, is contrary to fact, many of them having contracted it quite innocently. Secondly, it assumes that

midwives and nurses who attend cases of venereal disease are so ignorant, or so careless, that they convey infection to "clean" cases; therefore, thirdly, that unmarried maternity patients who may possibly be suffering from venereal disease should be left without attention from them.

We should advise the Rector of Honiton to leave doctors and nurses to deal with the question of infection, and to interest himself in influencing public opinion in Honiton, so that adequate attention may be available for women in child-birth not because they are "respectable," but because they and their unborn children are in need of skilled assistance.

MIDWIFERY FEES IN NEW ZEALAND.

It has been decided, says *Kai Tiaki*, by the Minister of Health, that as midwifery nurses are so badly needed in New Zealand, women should be given every possible encouragement to take the necessary training for this profession. The moderate fee hitherto charged of £20 for unqualified women, and £10 for registered nurses has, therefore, been reduced to a minimum of £1 and 10s. It must be recognised that the fee does not represent the value of the training offered at the State Maternity Hospitals, but is imposed merely because the Midwives' Act lays down that a fee is to be paid, and would require an amendment which cannot be made until next session, to enable the fee to be altogether given up.

MIDWIFERY IN AUSTRALIA.

Miss Hester Maclean, R.R.C., of New Zealand, has recently been visiting Australia, and contributes an article on nursing conditions in that country to the *New Zealand Journal of Health and Hospitals*.

MIDWIFERY NURSES.

Concerning "Midwifery Nurses," she writes:—"There is State Registration of Midwives in three of the States—Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia. There does not appear to be any inspection of midwives and, in regard to Maternity Homes, there are no nurse-inspectors, though the Homes are licensed. There are only two recognised training schools in Victoria—the Women's Hospital, and the McKellar Hospital in the country, a small place. The Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children, staffed by women doctors, is about to build a maternity wing.

Fees for training in Victoria are: Six months' course for trained nurses, £15; twelve months' course for untrained women, £30. There are plenty of applicants. Nurses from outside applying are informed that the vacancies for two years ahead are filled.

"In New South Wales there are four training schools. The fees are: For six months' course for trained nurses, 25 guineas; for twelve months' course for trained nurses, 50 guineas. There appears to be no shortage of applicants under these terms."

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