

The Midwife.

THE EAST END MOTHERS' HOME.

The annual meeting of the East End Mothers' Lying-in Home, 394-398, Commercial Road, E.1., recently held at the house of Lucy, Lady Markham, at 47, Portland Place, W., was a most successful one. How, indeed, could it be otherwise with two such eloquent and sympathetic speakers as Miss Lena Ashwell and the Rev. H. R. L. Sheppard?

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

Then, the Committee of Management were able to report that notwithstanding the continued advance in the price of nearly all commodities, and the fact that a larger number of patients were treated than ever before, the end of the year found the Home still free from debt, a state of things which, in the difficult conditions prevailing, they had scarcely dared to hope for. It was, however, due to the receipt of two unexpected grants which cannot recur, and new annual subscriptions and donations are much needed.

During the year the Committee made an important agreement with the Board of Education relative to the training of midwives. Under this agreement grants are made by the Board to pupil-midwives to aid them in the payment of their fees for training in accordance with an approved scheme.

The fees for pupil midwives, which include board, lodging and lectures are:—

Four months' course (trained nurses only),	£31.
Six months' course for other pupils	.. £40.

To be eligible for the Board of Education grant—which reduces the fees paid by a trained nurse to £11, and by others for a six months' course to £20—the pupil-midwife must declare her *bona-fide* intention to practise as a midwife, or have been for not less than three years in full-time employment as a Health Visitor, or have completed successfully a course of training approved under the Regulations for the training of Health Visitors.

The ward accommodation for the reception of in-patients has been most severely taxed, but the chairman, Dr. Owen Lankester, was able to announce at the annual meeting that a new ward is to be added, containing five or six beds, and this will probably be completed before the end of the present month.

THE REPORT OF THE HON. MEDICAL OFFICER.

Dr. Cursham Corner, J.P., Hon. Medical Officer and Lecturer to the Home, states in his report that the mothers delivered during 1920 were 2,469; 988 of these being in-patients, and 1,481 out-patients. There were no deaths in either department. Ante-natal work, Dr. Corner states, had its commencement, in various ways, in the

East End of London, and he believes that the first real effort in this direction was made by the East End Mothers' Lying-in Home.

So much has the Ante-natal work developed amongst the patients that it has become a routine duty for specially qualified nurses to visit amongst the mothers, to advise and help them, and urge them to attend at the Home regularly if their condition makes it desirable so to do.

Dr. Corner concludes his report with the following words:—

"I wish once more to acknowledge the Matron's and her staff's untiring energy, kindness and skill, and to thank them from my heart for the same."

THE REPORT OF THE RESIDENT LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

Miss Margaret Anderson, the Lady Superintendent, writes:—

"Of flowers in East London there are few, so God has filled it with the flowers of Paradise—the children.

"Philanthropists, preachers, and Socialists, who are working themselves into a frenzy over the decline of the birthrate, would find here their ideal, and, perhaps, if they saw the conditions under which our babies have to live and grow they might be incited to turn their brains and eloquence into a more useful channel—the housing of the poor. A litter of pedigree puppies would not be put into the homes into which we put our precious babies—the hope of the Empire.

"The number of cases dealt with to a completion this year under review is 2,469. We have had blessed luck, for we have not lost one mother out of this great number. What is more to our credit, however, is that we have not had one case of sepsis. This is due to the devotion and skill of our sisters and nurses, for ignorance and carelessness is the channel through which human life is attacked. The ten hours a week we spend over expectant mothers is certainly a great factor in this successful result.

"Nine hundred and eighty-eight mothers have been successfully delivered in the Home. We have been taxed to find room for all, but the success of our work surely justifies the means. Our Chairman threatens to suspend me if I overstep the allotted number. The Ministry of Health talk gently but firmly of 'cubic space,' but if our Chairman, 'Mr. Greatheart,' or the Inspectors from the Ministry of Health who are tackling with such courage the colossal problem of the nation's health, received the patients who come to us for assistance, heard their stories or visited their impossible homes, they would not send the many away that Miss Page is compelled to do with the sad words, 'No room, mother.' Rather would they say with Sister Cumberledge, who attends to the mothers in their own dilapidated, overcrowded homes, 'Let 'em all come here.'"

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)