

The Midwife.

THE EXPECTANT MOTHER AND BABY'S FIRST MONTH.

The Royal New Zealand Society for the Health of Women and Children, the motto of which is "To Help the Mothers and Save the Babies" is very thorough in its methods. Its first object is "to uphold the Sacredness of the Body and the Duty of Health; to inculcate a lofty view of the responsibilities of maternity, and the duty of every mother to fit herself for the perfect fulfilment of the natural calls of Motherhood, both before and after child-birth, and especially to advocate and promote the breast-feeding of infants." Another object of the Society is the training and employment of qualified Nurses, called Plunket Nurses, "to give sound, reliable instruction, advice, and assistance, gratis, to any member of the community desiring such services, on matters affecting the health and well-being of women, especially during pregnancy and while nursing infants, and on matters affecting the health and well-being of their children."

At the Sixth General Conference of the Society the following Resolution was passed in reference to the Government Pamphlet, "The Expectant Mother and Baby's First Month":—

"That the Government be asked to print 70,000 copies of the pamphlet 'The Expectant Mother and Baby's First Month' for distribution to married women under 35 years of age, and that copies be posted by Registrars of Births to all married women three months after marriage."

The Annual Report of the Society, published in May last, records that "It is the intention of the new Department of Child Welfare to have a copy of this book sent to every married woman in the Dominion under 35 years of age."

At the same time we should like to see the education of future mothers begun long before they are married, by the inclusion in the subjects taught in girls' schools, of whatever grade, of simple instruction (both theoretical and practical) in the washing, dressing and management of infants, and the creation of a public opinion that a girl's education should not be considered complete until she has received this instruction. After marriage the time that many women can give to learning how to become practically proficient in these essential duties is very limited, but most school girls, if the subject were presented to them in a suitable and interesting way, would take a pride in reaching a high standard of excellence. Moreover, considering how many babies and young children are left to the care of sisters not many years older than themselves, uninstructed how to handle or care for them, few things would conduce more to "conserving the health of the rising generation," which is one of the objects of the Royal New Zealand Society. We commend this proposal to its attention.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

EXAMINATION PAPER.

October 4th, 1921.

1. Describe the vagina. What organs lie near it? What changes does it undergo during pregnancy?
2. What are the reasons for the regular examination of the pregnant woman?
3. Describe in detail your management of labour in an uncomplicated breech presentation.
4. What are the common causes of obstructed labour? How do you recognise the early stages of this condition?
5. How would you tell that a mother's milk is insufficient? If it is so, what would you do to try to improve it?
6. What causes of fever in the puerperium do you know of? What information would you endeavour to obtain for the doctor when he arrives, if a patient's temperature rose to 104° on the third day after labour?

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD FOR IRELAND.

The fifth examination of the Central Midwives Board for Ireland was held simultaneously in Dublin, Belfast and Cork, on October 4th last. Seventy candidates entered, two did not present themselves, and of the remaining 68 60 passed satisfactorily from the following schools:—
Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, 15; Coombe Hospital, Dublin, 10; National Maternity Hospital, Dublin, 18; Incorporated Maternity Hospital, Belfast, 5; Belfast Workhouse Maternity Hospital, 5; Malone Place Refuge, Belfast, 2; Cork Maternity Hospital, 2; Military Families Hospital, Curragh, 1; Approved Teachers (England), 1.

"A TEXT BOOK FOR MIDWIVES."

We have received from Messrs. Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton, 1 & 2, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C. 2, a new edition (the third) of "A Text Book for Midwives," by Dr. John S. Fairbairn, F.R.C.P. (London), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), Obstetric Physician, St. Thomas' Hospital. In the first edition, published in 1914, Dr. Fairbairn laid midwives under a deep debt of gratitude in writing for them this book, which he tells us in his preface is his "contribution towards meeting the legitimate aspirations of the midwife for a higher professional education." It is beautifully printed and has three plates and 113 illustrations, five in colour. In the new edition, the chapters on "The Infant" have been almost entirely rewritten. We hope to review the book in an early issue.

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