

# The Midwife.

## MIDWIVES AND JURY SERVICE.

Lieut.-Colonel Fremantle recently asked the Home Secretary in the House of Commons if he will reconsider his decision not to exempt midwives from jury service in response to the request pressed on him by the Federation of Medical and Allied Societies, representing the majority of medical and nursing professional associations, as essential to the safety of lying-in women?

Mr. Shortt replied in a written answer on November 10th: I have no power to exempt anyone from jury service, but the point has been noted for consideration whenever legislation on the subject of liability to jury service is in contemplation.

We see no reason for total exemptions. For instance, Matrons of maternity hospitals and Superintendents of County Nursing Associations are just as able to take their share in the performance of this public duty as other professional women. We agree with Colonel Fremantle that isolated midwives working in rural areas, and consequently their patients, suffer some hardships if they are called up for jury service.

But it would be manifestly unfair that women should be able to claim exemption simply from the fact that they are on the Roll of Certified Midwives when they are not practising midwifery. Exemption should be limited to practising midwives.

Lieut.-Colonel Fremantle offers no proof of his statement that the Federation of Medical and Allied Societies represents the majority of nursing professional associations.

## THE MARGARET McMILLAN DAY NURSERY.

Her Majesty the Queen has graciously consented to open, at noon on Tuesday, November 22nd, two new shelters which have been erected at Miss Margaret McMillan's day nursery at Deptford by the London County Council at a cost of £2,000. Her Majesty has already shown her interest in this nursery—where upwards of 200 children, whose ages range from 2 to 7, are in attendance at the school—by a previous visit.

## POUND DAY AT TREBOVIR ROAD.

As we go to press the Mothercraft Training Society is holding a Pound Day at 29, Trebovir Road, S.W., and Princess Christian has consented to be present to receive gifts of money and in kind. This is the centre where the methods of Dr. Truby King are practised with so much success. Lady Victoria Braithwaite, when Lady Plunket, did much to promote these methods in New Zealand, and takes a keen interest in the work.

## BIRTH CONTROL IN U.S.A.

A riotous scene, according to the New York correspondent of the *Daily Mail*, occurred on Sunday evening when the New York police prevented the holding of the final meeting of the American Birth Control Conference, which was to have been addressed by Mrs. Margaret Sanger, pioneer of the movement in U.S.A., and Mr. Harold Cox, editor of the *Edinburgh Review*.

The audience, which included many fashionable women, vigorously resented the action of the police, who were jeered, mobbed, and at one time overwhelmed by an angry crowd, necessitating the summoning of strong reserves.

In reply to protests by Mrs. Sanger, Captain Donohue, in command of the police, said he received orders from headquarters to stop the meeting and refused to state the reasons for the order. Mrs. Sanger and two other women were arrested when they refused to desist from attempts to address the audience.

A large crowd, including many women in luxurious motor-cars, followed them to the night court, where the prisoners were arraigned on a charge of refusing to obey police orders.

All three prisoners were remanded.

After leaving the police-court Mrs. Sanger issued a statement to the effect that the meeting was stopped "by the influence of the Catholic Church."

Spreading information as to the prevention of conception is an offence in New York and all other States of the Union.

One of the objects of Sunday evening's meeting was to urge the legalising of such information in special motherhood clinics.

Mrs. Sanger and one of her supporters appeared before a stipendiary on Monday charged on remand with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

The magistrate asked for Captain Donohue. He was not in court and could not be found.

The magistrate thereupon discharged both prisoners.

It is a strange tale to hail from the Land of Liberty.

## KENSINGTON CHRISTMAS FAIR.

Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll) opens on Thursday, November 17th, and Lady Davison on Friday, November 18th, a Christmas Fair at Kensington Town Hall in aid of the Lancaster-road School for Mothers and Day Nursery, of which Princess Christian is President. Amongst the numerous patrons are the Marchioness of Carisbrooke, the Mayor of Kensington, and Mrs. Rice-Oxley. The stalls will include produce, needlework, cakes and sweets, glass and china, and Christmas gifts. There will also be various entertainments, competitions, and side-shows.

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