

## The Midwife.

### CHRISTMAS IN THE EAST END.

We learn from the East End Mothers' Home, Commercial Road, E., that if all the promises made materialise the patients will have a very happy time. The members of the Committee are sending plum puddings, hams, and turkeys, besides other good things. The Christmas Tree for the children is coming, with toys to put on it.

It is hoped to have two parties, for fathers and mothers, one in the largest ward, "Queen Mary," the other in the newest ward, "Pearly King." The latter is so called because the East London Demonstration Committee presented the Home with enough money to furnish the ward, and has promised to raise enough money to pay a big share of its yearly upkeep.

The "Pearly King" Ward looks perfectly charming with all its new up-to-date furnishing, and the Christmas decorations will beautify it even more.

There is a general wish, frankly expressed among the mothers of the neighbourhood, that they may be lucky enough to come into the Home for Christmas, and there will be great disappointment when those mothers who are expecting babies in December are not among the lucky ones who get in before the 25th.

The nurses are arranging an entertainment for the patients, but it can be imagined that with babies arriving at the rate which they do "down East" rehearsals are a difficult matter.

The life and soul of all the Christmas plans is of course the Matron, Miss Margaret Anderson, seconded by her very able Lieutenant-in-Chief, Miss Beatrice Page.

### AMERICA AND BIRTH CONTROL.

We are informed that the paragraphs that have just been appearing telling of the arrest of some speakers and the refusal of a hearing to Mr. Harold Cox throw a most misleading light on the position of affairs in America as regards Birth Control.

Over a month ago (on October 27th) Dr. Marie Stopes lectured in the Town Hall, New York (the very Hall in which Birth Control speeches were forbidden on November 14th) to an enthusiastic audience in the presence, and with the approval, of the Authorities.

Why this apparent change of front? It should be understood that in America, just as here, there are advocates of various kinds of birth control, and Dr. Stopes lectured under the auspices of the Voluntary Parenthood League, a law-abiding and well organised Society with the highest backing, whose literature is widespread and whose meetings are received with approval. Those at the head of the organisation for which Mr. Harold Cox went to speak have many times been imprisoned already, and go to the length of defying the law rather than working for the change of the Federal Law.

Dr. Marie Stopes has just returned well satisfied with progress in America, for the day after her great meeting a private meeting of Society leaders was held at which funds were subscribed and the Committee elected for the immediate establishment of Birth Control Clinics on legal lines.

### THE TREASURE COT.

What more acceptable gift could be found for an infant at this season than a Treasure Cot? Happy the baby to whom Father Christmas brings such a desirable gift. Not only is it extremely dainty, but it is also strong and durable, and moreover it folds up into a small space so that if on a visit baby can still have his own snug little bed. For older children the "Treasure Crib" will be found most useful, and amongst its commendable qualities is that the bars are so close together that there is no possible danger. The self-locking sliding side is also an attraction.

Those who are seeking presents for young children should pay a visit to the showrooms of the Treasure Cot Co., Ltd., at 124, Victoria Street, S.W., when they will be delighted with the many articles for the comfort of babies and children on view there. We can only indicate the chief of these, but those who visit the showrooms of the Company cannot fail to appreciate the boon to both mothers and infants which the Treasure Cot specialities provide.

### SEVEN AT A BIRTH.

Some notes on Lagos in a recent issue of *Man*, the journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, by Mr. N. W. Thomas, and reported in the *Lancet*, state that the first-born of twins is called *Taiwo* (see the world), the second *Koindi* (come behind), because it is supposed to send the other on in front to see the world. The *Koindi*, it is said, usually dies, and in that case an image of it must be made or the mother will not bear any more children. In the case of triplets, the third one is called *Idowu* (the servant of twins). The next child is called *Alaba*, and is the servant of *Idowu*, and the next is *Idogbe*, who watches the house while others come, and is very precious. Seven are said to have been born at once in Ibadan in 1907; an eyewitness certified this fact to Mr. Thomas, who comments: "In view of the case of six at a birth on the Gold Coast, attested by an English medical man, there seems no reason to doubt the story."

### THE FLOOR POLISH.

Don't forget when the house is being made spick and span for Christmas to use Shell Brand Floor Polish. As it is the first, so it is the best. Do not be put off with some other described as "just as good."

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