

The Midwife.

THE CLAPHAM MATERNITY HOME.

Miss Christine Gregory, J.P., presided at the Annual Meeting of the Clapham Maternity Hospital, Jefferies Road, Clapham, on Tuesday, July 5th, which was attended by a large number of friends of the hospital. The financial statement, presented by Miss Marion Ritchie, the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, was most encouraging, and unique, we should imagine, in the annals of hospitals at the present time, proving once again the excellence of women as financiers.

The number of in-patients had been 1,130, and the cost of management £5,393 1s. 3d. Like "an ordinary honest family" they had kept their expenditure within their means, and with a total income of £6,475 19s. 3d., they had a balance in hand to begin the new year with of £1,082 18s. The Battersea District Maternity had also a small balance in hand.

Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson, in moving the adoption of the report of the Hon. Treasurer, described it as a most moving and wonderful document, which made her feel not only extraordinarily proud, but extraordinarily envious. She offered her congratulations to the Committee and to her old and very valued friend, Miss Ritchie, who had put her sweetness and humanity into the work of raising funds. She wished the Treasurers and Chairmen of other hospitals were there to hear this report of big expenses incurred and big expenses met, with a balance of over £1,000 carried on to the new year.

The system there differed from the General Hospital system, inasmuch as the payments by patients were 20s. out of 25s. The nurses also contributed to the upkeep of the hospital in exchange for their training. She moved the adoption of the Report. This was seconded and carried.

Dr. May Thorne, who added her testimony to the unique character of the Report, congratulated the Committee of the hospital, which was founded in 1889, and was the oldest maternity hospital founded by medical women.

She then gave a brief account of the "romance of medical women," beginning away back nearly 70 years ago, when it came into the mind of Miss Elizabeth Blackwell to qualify, the need of medical women having presented itself to her because of the illness of a friend who could not make up her mind to consult a medical man. She then moved the re-election of the Chairman, Dr. Caroline Sturge, and this was seconded and carried unanimously.

Dr. Annie McCall, who expressed her pleasure at having with them Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson and Dr. May Thorne, devoutly hoped that the hospital had reached its climax in regard to

numbers, and that they would now come down. They had dealt with 1,130 in-patient mothers, and as many babies, but now there were municipal hospitals at Wandsworth, Battersea and Tooting, and the pressure was not so great. There had been three deaths, all of women who were bad cases when taken in.

In connection with the Battersea District maternity, 657 mothers were attended during the year.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman and speakers.

Those present then visited the sunny and airy wards, and then were hospitably entertained to tea, the Matron (Miss Chippendale) and the nurses and pupil midwives being indefatigable in their care of their guests.

Every one was pleased to have the opportunity of congratulating Miss Ritchie not only on the present year's report, but on her thirty-two years' strenuous work for the hospital, and she held quite a court in a corner of one of the tea rooms.

THE CHILD WELFARE EXHIBITION.

The Child Welfare Exhibition, held last week at the Central Hall, Westminster, included many interesting exhibits. The Paddington and St. Marylebone District Nursing Association, 117, Sutherland Avenue, Maida Vale, W., was well to the fore with many interesting exhibits. We particularly noticed a very simple and effective pattern for a head bandage, which would keep a dressing snugly on a child's head, and a Mother's Emergency Box containing simple first aid appliances.

The stall of the National Union of Trained Nurses, 46, Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W., was a real nurses' stall, illustrating how wide and varied a field of preventive work is open to nurses, and that truly the motto of the N.U.T.N. *Per Ardua Ad Astra* (Through Effort to the Light) is most appropriate.

The Midwives' Institute, 12 Buckingham Street, Strand, demonstrated how a room in an ordinary working class house can be prepared in accordance with the laws of order, cleanliness and general efficiency, and a midwives' ante-natal room, in which were to be seen simple and practical contrivances in connection with this work was admirably arranged.

Messrs. E. T. Morriss & Co., Ltd., 139, Finchley Road, N.W.3, were exhibiting the Marmot Baby Carriages and Pram Accessories, than which no babies, however fastidious, could wish for better.

We were particularly attracted by the Marylebone Accouchment Outfits in sterile tins shown by Messrs. John Bell & Croyden, Ltd., of 50, Wigmore Street, London, W.1, costing only 30s. We cordially commend them to the notice of midwives and maternity nurses.

An interesting exhibit was the Baby "Welfare" Napkin shown by Miss Adamson and Mrs. Webb, Bures, Suffolk. It is a new shape, designed and made by an Infant Welfare Centre, and while having the necessary thickness where required, is not so cumbersome as the ordinary napkin.

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