

The Midwife.

THE MARRIAGE SERVICE.

It is interesting to note the differences between the Form for the Solemnization of Matrimony used at the marriage of the Princess Mary and that in the Authorised Version of the Book of Common Prayer.

Old.

First, it was ordained for the procreation of children, to be brought up in the fear and nurture of the Lord, and to the praise of His Holy Name.

Secondly, it was ordained for a remedy against sin, and to avoid fornication; that such persons as have not the gift of continency might marry, and keep themselves undefiled members of Christ's body.

Thirdly, it was ordained for the mutual society, help, and comfort, that the one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and adversity.

These alterations have been approved by Convocation, although they have not yet had the assent of Parliament.

THE ANTENATAL CARE OF THE PREGNANT WOMAN.

Dr. Lily A. Baker, F.R.C.S.I. (Medical Officer to the University Settlement Mothers' Schools, Bristol), in an interesting lecture to midwives, published in *Maternity and Child Welfare*, writes in part:—

The realisation of the importance of supervising the health of the expectant mother and of keeping her under skilled observation during the whole period of her pregnancy is an advance of comparatively recent development in the history of medical science. The more or less universal establishment of antenatal clinics, maternity centres, and other agencies for assisting the welfare of the pregnant woman has come about only in the last ten years.

Before this, our efforts for the well-being of mother and child were chiefly directed to the post-natal period in order to combat the high infantile mortality existing, especially amongst city dwellers in thickly populated industrial areas. While, however, infantile mortality has been gradually, but steadily decreasing in recent years, maternal mortality has risen, and the number of deaths from puerperal fever in the last ten years has been greater than in the previous decade.

New.

First, it was ordained for the increase of mankind according to the will of God and that children might be brought up in the fear and nurture of the Lord, and to the praise of His Holy Name.

Secondly, it was ordained in order that the natural instincts and affections, implanted by God, should be hallowed and controlled; that those who are not called of God to remain unmarried should live chastely in matrimony and thus in holiness and pureness of living mankind should dwell together in families.

Thirdly, it was ordained for the mutual society, help, and comfort, that the one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and adversity.

Early in the twentieth century a few enlightened individuals in this and other countries had begun to make isolated efforts to deal with antenatal problems, but it required the European War to awaken more general interest in this highly important subject. The terrible loss of life from wounds and disease, the falling birth-rate, and the changes, economic and social, wrought by the war, make thinking people begin to realise the importance of dealing with the welfare of the mothers who are to repopulate Europe.

France has fully awakened to the situation, and last September a prolonged discussion took place in Paris, at the second Congress of French-speaking Gynæcologists and Obstetricians, on the problems connected with the medical and social protection of the pregnant woman. An international congress is being organised by La Ligue Contre la Mortalité Infantile, which will meet next July in Paris to discuss the same problems.

The medical supervision of the pregnant woman should begin in the early months of pregnancy, whether she be healthy or otherwise, for, though pregnancy is a physiological condition, it provokes such important changes in the entire organism of the mother, that her health is in a state of unstable equilibrium, and the borderline between health and disease is very easily crossed. We have only to consider the extra work thrown on the excretory organs by the increased quantity of toxins circulating in the maternal blood, to realise this fact.

BIRTH CONTROL AS AN AID TO DISARMAMENT.

Dr. Henry E. Jackson, formerly a Presbyterian clergyman of Swarthmore, Pa., created a mild sensation in Friends' meeting in Washington on Disarmament Sunday, when he advocated birth control as an aid to disarmament. "If a nation's population were regulated, so that it had only as many people as it could support in decency and security," said Dr. Jackson, "it would remove the pressure of population and the consequent need to steal other territory to provide for its needless surplus. The exportation of surplus population is as much a menace to peace as the exportation of surplus capital." "It is regarded as illegal and irreligious to regulate the number of people born, but not irreligious to kill them after they are born, because a spiritual aim is attributed to all wars to induce men to fight in them. This only adds hypocrisy to stupidity."—*The New Generation*.

A majority Socialist motion which has been accepted by the Main Committee of the German Reichstag provides that illegitimate motherhood will henceforth not be a ground for dismissal or disciplinary action against women employed on Government service.

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