

The Midwife.

LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE MIDWIVES' ASSOCIATION.

Dr. Gertrude Austin presided recently at the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Leicester and Leicestershire Midwives' Association, of which she is a Vice-President, the President being Miss Elinor Pell Smith.

The Report stated that the Association continues to make steady progress and to gain new members. The Lectures given during the year have been particularly interesting and instructive.

The resignation of Miss Stanion, as Secretary, has, it is reported, been received with mingled feelings. Her keen interest and readiness to help in all that concerns the Association makes her a delightful colleague, so that it deeply regrets her leaving, but it is more than pleased that the reason is her approaching marriage, for it knows that from her home sympathy and strength will radiate.

In Mrs. Richardson, the new Secretary, the Association gains one willing to give of her best. With the help of that hidden power, Miss Mearns, who unknown to many, and little realised by herself, does so much to help on the secretarial work, it is anticipated that all will be as satisfactory as in past years.

"For the rest of us," says the report "it is in the power of the least favoured to be loyal, sisterly and gentle."

An alteration has been made in the Constitution, *viz.*, that Vice-Presidents do not serve on the Committee in virtue of their office, but elected members only.

The Benevolent Fund has, as usual, been well supported. Members are asked to give notice of any cases of sickness amongst their colleagues, so that they may be visited, and helped if help is needed.

On the subject of finance, the Report states that the small balance at the bank is due not to any decline of membership, or failure of members to pay the Annual Subscription, but to the almost doubling, and sometimes more than doubling of expenses of hiring the room, printing, and postage. The Treasurers and Officers feel that if the Association can pay its way and keep out of debt, they must be content, as long as it is doing the useful and good work amongst the Midwives of the Town and County it is doing at present.

A Resolution was carried, proposed by Nurse Wood and seconded by Nurse Richardson, expressing the opinion that the Notification of Births Act should be amended, and that instead of the person in attendance within six hours after the birth, the person in attendance at the time of birth should notify, so that cases of unqualified persons doing the work of a Midwife may be traced.

L.C.C. MIDWIVES' ACT COMMITTEE.

Mrs. Wilton Phipps, J.P., has been elected Chairman, and Brigadier-General R. J. Cooper, C.B., C.V.O., to be Vice-Chairman.

THE ROYAL NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY FOR THE HEALTH OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

The Royal New Zealand Society for the Health of Women and Children have a very attractive way of getting into touch with the mothers of the Dominion. Here is a specimen of a circular letter sent out by a Plunket Nurse working in connection with the Wellington Branch of the Society. Enclosed is a stamped and directed envelope for reply, with space for indicating the best days, and the most convenient time for the nurse to call.

LETTER.

DEAR MRS.....

Notice has just reached us of your baby's birth, and as you may be losing the help of your own nurse about this time, we wish to let you know that you are more than welcome to the services of the Plunket Nurse. Can we advise or help you in any way?

The whole aim and purpose of the Society is "To help the Mothers and Save the Babies."

If you would like me to call, you need only fill in and post the enclosed stamped card, or you can arrange matters by telephoning to the Central Plunket Rooms, No. 21-931, at any time between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., from Monday to Friday.

VOLUNTARY RESTRICTION OF FERTILITY.

Dr. Christopher Rolleston, County Medical Officer for the Soke of Peterborough, writes in his Annual Report to the Peterborough County Council:—

"Gradually the voluntary restriction of fertility is spreading to all classes of the community. Restriction is practised in all the most progressive countries. In Russia and China the infant mortality and the general death rate are enormous, while in New Zealand, where fertility is low, the death rate is lower than anywhere else, and it can be said that the troops raised from this colony and Australia were the finest, physically, among the belligerent nations, and perhaps the most mentally alert. Unrestricted fertility undoubtedly leads to much suffering amongst women, and its warmest advocates, be it noted, are celibate bishops. In the light of experiences it may be well to reconsider views formerly held, and to institute a system of birth control."

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