

# The Midwife.

## THE EAST END MOTHERS' HOME.

The Annual Meeting of the East End Mothers' Home, which is always a most interesting and successful function, was this year of special interest, as it was held in the Mansion House, by invitation of the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, and presided over by the Lord Mayor, supported by Dr. Owen Lankester, Chairman of the Home, the Rt. Hon. Viscount Goschen (Vice-Chairman), the Right Hon. the Earl of Bessborough (Trustee), Lady Bonham Carter, Lady Roxburgh, Mrs. Kendall, and Sir Adrian Pollock.

The Medical Report of Dr. Carsham Corner, Hon. Medical Officer to the Committee, is as follows:—

It is with pleasure I am able to present the 37th Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1921.

### IN-PATIENTS.

Mothers delivered .. ..	1,024
Infants born alive .. ..	1,014
Stillborn .. ..	20
Sets of twins .. ..	10

### OUT-PATIENTS.

Mothers delivered .. ..	1,321
Infants born alive .. ..	1,319
Stillborn .. ..	27
Sets of twins .. ..	25
Home Visits .. ..	25,817

Two maternal deaths.

(a) A young mother came in with double pneumonia, was safely delivered with the most extreme care, but died from heart failure, owing to the strain of maternity and pneumonia.

(b) This poor mother was sent in extremely ill with dilated heart and chronic lung disorder. She had been ill for months, living in an underground kitchen. For 16 days we kept her going, but the disease was too advanced to save her.

The above statistics show that no mother was lost through obstetric complications, owing, to a great extent, to the preventive measures taken at the Ante-Natal Clinics.

The Ante-Natal work is doing well, and is an added interest and education. Our pupil midwives get a full experience in all the branches of their important profession, as after-care forms a part of our curriculum also. The pupils, by the power of good example and precept, obtain a knowledge of the importance of motherhood. This engenders a respect for the art of midwifery, which soon results in a demand for higher standards of practice, and will in time, I trust, draw the best nursing talent to this branch of the profession.

I desire to thank my colleague, Dr. Arthur, also Miss Anderson, Miss Page and the nursing staff for their efficient help in the many serious cases it has been my privilege to attend, and for the unending care, patience and interest continuously shown to mothers and infants.

The speech of the afternoon was that of Lady Bonham Carter, who moved a Resolution that the Home deserves wider financial support in order that it may be able to maintain and enlarge the sphere of its activity. They had, she said, to determine whether the work was to go on or not, and she hoped it would never be closed while they had power to prevent it.

Lady Roxburgh, who seconded, said she had never realized till she visited the Home how absolutely those who brought sunshine into the lives of others could keep it for themselves. She thought Miss Anderson's life must be flooded with sunshine.

Great interest centred in "Goosey Gander," a baby girl five months old, who, with great contentment, nestled into the arms of the Lady Mayoress for the afternoon. Mrs. Kendall appealed for a good home for her, but, as no one responded, enquired how much it would cost to keep the baby in the Home for a year, and on being told £30, made herself responsible for that amount.

The Lord Mayor, who, with the Lady Mayoress, visited the Home last Sunday, said how much impressed he was that not a baby raised a whimper throughout their visit; and the Lady Mayoress testified to the good work being done by Miss Anderson and her staff.

Tea was served at the conclusion of the meeting

## GRANT FOR MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

It was reported at the Annual Meeting of the Cumberland Nursing Association, at Carlisle, that the Minister of Health had recently sent a grant of £899 towards the midwifery service of the County. This large grant of public money is being administered by self-elected ladies of title and other persons who are quite irresponsible to any State Department. The Association is not properly supported as a voluntary work; the local subscriptions and donations during the past year have only amounted to £112. Why should such an ill-supported private venture expend so large a grant of public money? The Ministry of Health should look into the matter.

## POST-GRADUATE WEEK FOR MIDWIVES.

The tenth annual Post Graduate Week for Midwives opened on Monday at the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, Lambeth, with a Reception by the Matron and Staff. The weather was perfect and tea in the garden greatly enjoyed. The afternoon functions on Tuesday included visits to York Road Infants' Clinic, Queen Charlotte's Hospital, and the Glaxo Factory; and at 6 p.m. the Midwives re-assembled at the hospital for Mr. Richardson's Lecture on "Recent Research into the Toxæmias of Pregnancy."

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