

# The Midwife.

## ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING THE TRAINING AND SUPPLY OF MIDWIVES.

A most enjoyable gathering of midwives of the Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives was held on July 12th at Gloucester Lodge, Campden Hill, by kind invitation of Mrs. Wallace Bruce, who welcomed them and spoke in high terms of their work. Nine midwives received Badges, and Dr. Lane-Clayton then gave a most interesting address, pointing out the progress which was continually being made in the midwifery profession towards a higher standard, which meant progress not only in midwifery but in the development of the midwife as well. If the present rate of advance was maintained there would be great possibilities in the future.

The following midwives received badges:—Olive Bishop (independent midwife at Peckham); Ethel Boughen (independent midwife at Mitcham, Surrey); Georgina Byron (independent midwife at Birkenhead); Winifred Conway (working under the Bath Nursing Association); Edith Feron (working under West Suffolk County Nursing Association); Mabel Kerswell (independent midwife at Southend-on-Sea); Elizabeth Marcroft (working under Derbyshire C.N.A.); Annie Mildenhall (working under Devonshire C.N.A.); Elsie Spouncer (working under Somerset C.N.A.).

### A SPLENDID RECORD.

Dr. Joseph Priestley, Medical Officer to the Borough of Lambeth, has good reason to be proud of the improvements in the health of the borough during his 27 years of office.

When he took office in 1895 the infantile mortality rate per thousand was 152.0; in 1920 it was 52.3; and in 1921 56.3. Twenty-six years ago the general death-rate was 19.5; in 1921 it was 11.9 per thousand. There is solid satisfaction in preventive work.

### SOMERSET COUNTY NURSING ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Report of the Somerset County Nursing Association, presented at the Annual Meeting held recently at Bridgwater, stated in connection with the training home, "It is with great satisfaction that the Committee record the continued success of the Mary Stanley Training Home at Bridgwater, under Miss Brown's skilled management. The work has been satisfactorily reported on by the Q.V.J.I. A room has now been set apart as a small midwifery ward, and want of space alone prevents further development in this direction. During the year nine candidates have been trained; 42 medical lectures have been given by Dr. Harvey Bird, and have been greatly valued. The candidates assist at the newly-established infant welfare centre of the town."

## THE GOOD WORK OF QUEEN'S NURSES.

At the 44th annual meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, held at the Institution, Mr. Frank Thornton, J.P., in his presidential address, referring to the grants made to the Institution by the Town and County Councils, said that by the Maternity and Child Welfare Act of 1918 local authorities were required to make provision each in its own area for the reception of emergency or necessitous cases, other than that previously afforded by the Poor-Law Authorities. The Q.V.N.I., by opening two Maternity Homes in 1918 and 1919 respectively had, therefore, relieved the Town and County Councils from vast expenditure. The cases admitted numbered 838, viz.: From the town, 685, at an approximate cost of £5,448—grant £19; from the county, 126, approximate cost, £1,008—grants, £112 (£50 received up to date and £62 voted); and 27 cases from beyond either boundary. The chairman regretted the huge disproportion between the outlay and income, but was hopeful that before long a block grant would be made by the Town Council, more especially as, by annexing the Institute's eight Infant Welfare Centres in 1919, they had disqualified the Institute for a Government grant of upwards of £200 per annum.

Mr. Thornton dealt with the district nursing work, which was classified under two headings—the general work and maternity work. As to the maternity work which the Institution had undertaken for the past fourteen years, it was noteworthy that at first only two doctors in the town approved, the majority being hotly opposed to the innovation, but now the Queen's Nurses attended maternity cases under every doctor in general practice in Northampton, and it was no infrequent thing for a doctor to make the engagement of a Queen's Nurse a condition before he would promise to attend himself. The Maternity Homes were each more than justifying their existence. The doctors were unanimous in their professional support, and it was on their recommendation that many persons applied for admission, there being 13 patients now in residence. Canon Ashmole made appreciative reference to the way in which Miss Lunn, Miss Almond, and the nursing staff had carried out their several duties, and his remarks were cordially endorsed by Mrs. Harry Manfield and also by Mrs. Capell.

### A PRIMEVAL FETISH.

Dr. David Arthur Hughes, Medical Officer of Health for Carmarthenshire, is appealing to mothers to cease from cutting their babies' ears at the waning of the moon. He describes the practice as a primeval fetish.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)