

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

The list of successful candidates at the April Examination (No. 98) of the Central Midwives Board is now published. The number of candidates examined was 622, and those successful in passing the examiners 487. The percentage of failure was 21.7.

EAST END MOTHERS' LYING-IN HOME.

The East End Mothers' Lying-in Home, which will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 16th, at 4 p.m. at the Home, 396, Commercial Road, E.1., has issued its Annual Report, which is always an interesting document. This year the excess of income over expenditure shows a credit balance, but this is due to the receipt of a legacy of £200, a grant of £200 from Smith's Kensington Charity, and a grant of £580 from the combined appeal, from none of which sources may the Committee expect any assistance during 1923.

The donations show an increase, but there is a falling off in annual subscriptions. It is much to be hoped that those which have lapsed will be renewed, and that others will be obtained, as they form the reliable income of such a charity.

The report of the Hon. Medical Officer, Dr. Cursham Corner, J.P., shows that in the Home, 1,024 mothers were delivered, and 1,012 infants born alive, 25 infants were still-born, and there were 13 sets of twins. Of Out-patients, 1,340 mothers were delivered, 1,324 infants born alive, 29 infants were still-born, there were 13 sets of twins, and 20,282 home visits were paid.

The work done in the Ante-Natal department for the last 16 years has, Dr. Corner states, proved the need of such work, and the results obtained by careful attention to the mothers' health during pregnancy are beyond anticipation. The mothers are very willing to help themselves, and by guidance in the right direction good confinements result.

Miss Margaret Anderson, the Resident Lady Superintendent, contributes as usual a delightful report, overflowing with professional knowledge, altruism, practical sympathy, and humour.

"That the work is appreciated by whom it benefits the following story shows. A mother coming in recently for the fifth time greeted me at the door with an embrace, and these words: When I turn the corner to the Home I always say to myself, 'Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.' She misinterpreted our Lord's words to her own need, poor soul, but surely no sweeter compliment could be paid to your work, and it must be grateful hearing to the Committee and Subscribers that their endeavour and self-sacrifice is so fully acknowledged by those they desire to help. The mothers come in, not as

strangers, but with the ease and affection of guests certain of a welcome, and interested in all that concerns the Home.

"The world is full of wonderful things, but the most wonderful thing is a baby. This year we have brought 2,364 babies into the world. God grows weary of great kingdoms, but never of little flowers. Our every day seems a life, and our whole life but a day full of life and death, for our work means not only bringing a life in the world, but saving the mothers of the world. The courage and contentment of the mothers is wonderful. They enjoy the blessings of the day if God sends them, and the evils they bear patiently and sweetly, and the thought of the children at home often gives them nerve to take up life again. There is no velvet so soft as a mother's lap—no path so flowery as that imprinted with her footsteps."

"District work is the hardest part of our work, yet the Midwives go on smilingly night after night, day after day, in all weathers. The hours they spend in destitute homes wear them out, for they see every variety of human need and endeavour, and the actual want of the necessities of life is common. The patience and endurance of the mothers fills them with humility and a desire to alleviate their suffering, for the mothers seem to draw upon content for the deficiencies of fortune and rise above their depressing circumstances in an amazing manner."

STERILISED SURGICAL AND ACCOUCHEMENT DRESSINGS.

Messrs. Squire & Sons, Ltd., chemists to the King, of 413, Oxford Street, have opened a department in their well-known business for the supply of sterilised surgical and accouchement dressings. The most up-to-date plant for the proper sterilisation of these articles has been fitted up on their premises, and a full range of operation outfits is always held ready.

A special feature of the sterilising process is the use of a mechanical arrangement whereby the drums containing the dressings are closed while still in the sterilising chamber, and before exposure to the outside air. This effectively prevents any likelihood of contamination of the dressings in handling after sterilisation—a distinct advance—and should appeal to the medical and nursing professions.

The materials employed in the dressings are of the same high standard as the other products of the firm, and the drums are attractively put up and clearly labelled. Nurses, and particularly maternity nurses, should apply to Messrs. Squire for the price lists of these dressings and Accouchement outfits.

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