

The Midwife.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITAL.

Like most hospitals, Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital has had to face a serious financial position, and we regret to learn from the Annual Report for 1922 just issued that on December 31st, 1922, there was a debt of over £20,000 owing to the Bank and sundry creditors. Such a debt is not only a great anxiety, but it also hampers progress, and an institution of the standing of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, which has been carrying on its good work since 1752, has earned the right to adequate public support, and we hope that it will receive donations sufficient not only to wipe out the existing debt, but to justify it in extending its good work.

The mortality amongst the 1,820 in-patients, many of whom were abnormal cases, and a number of serious emergency cases, sent in in a critical condition, was only 10. The district out-patients attended were 2,173, amongst whom there was only one maternal death.

At the Ante-Natal Department, with its branch at the District Home in Ladbrooke Grove, 6,174 patients have been treated, and it is impossible to estimate how many lives have been saved and complications averted in consequence.

In connection with the Midwifery Training School, it is interesting to note that of the 150 candidates who took the Central Midwives Board examination only six failed to pass, the percentage of failures being thus 4 per cent. only, whereas in the whole of Great Britain the percentage of failure was 23. There could hardly be a better advertisement for the Training School for Midwives at Queen Charlotte's.

Note is made of the fact that "since the close of the year proposals have been made by the Central Midwives Board for increasing the period of training for candidates for their examination which, if carried out, may have a serious effect upon the Training School."

The Annual Meeting of Governors and Subscribers takes place at the Hospital on May 30th, at 3.30, Lord Howard de Walden presiding.

EAST-END MOTHERS' HOME.

The annual meeting of the East-End Mothers' Home was held on Wednesday, May 16th, in the Hall of the College for Lay Workers at 390, Commercial Road, E. Mr. Owen Lankester, F.R.C.S., Chairman of the Committee, presided.

Dr. Russell Andrews proposed the principal resolution, which affirmed "That the East-End Mothers' Lying-in Home is engaged in excellent work, and deserves the widest financial support in order that it may maintain its efficiency, and enlarge the sphere of its activity."

Dr. Russell Andrews emphasised the value of

the institution to prospective mothers. The patients were seen months before the time of expectancy, and everything was done to help the mother and to see that she received proper treatment. Nor did the good work end when the child was born, preventive treatment went on all the time. The amount of illness and death among mothers and children who were not properly attended was appalling. Again, the Home was a centre for the efficient training of midwives.

The Rev. W. Escott Bloss, who seconded the resolution, said that the desire of the mothers to go into the Home was a testimony to the good work carried on there.

The Rev. J. F. Stern, Chairman of the Mile End Guardians, and Chaplain to the Institution, speaking as one belonging to the Jewish persuasion, said that as he went from bed to bed all he heard was the same old story of what they do for the patients, and how good Miss Anderson was to them all.

It was the thirty-eighth annual meeting, and, as usual, the Home was full, and looked beautiful. Besides the happy mothers and "ornamental" babies, the flowers were lovely, and the wards were delightful.

"A Home from Home" scarcely represents what the East End Mothers' Home means to its patients. Rather, it is the only real home they have known, for their roof tree but too often covers only "four walls and a room."

After the meeting all the visitors went into the Home to tea. The authorities were greatly indebted to the Rev. C. J. Beresford for lending the Hall for the meeting, as the Home is too small for its many friends to meet in.

POST-GRADUATE WEEK FOR MIDWIVES.

The Eleventh Annual Post-Graduate Week for Midwives will be held from May 28th to June 1st inclusive, at the General Lying-In Hospital, York Road, Lambeth, S.E.1, beginning with a reception by the Matron and Staff at 4 p.m. on Monday 28th. At 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 31st, there will be a "social" arranged by the General Lying-In Hospital Nurses' Association. An interesting series of lectures are arranged, and clinics in the wards by doctors and Sisters, lectures in the Milk Kitchen, visits to other hospitals, Infants' Clinics, the School of Mothercraft, Trebovir Road, &c., will be conducted as usual. There will be an Ante-Natal Clinic daily at 9 a.m., at which the members will be limited. The subscription for the Course, payable in advance, is 6s., and those who wish to join should send their names as soon as possible to Sister Coni, the Hon. Secretary.

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