

# The Midwife.

## THE TERM OF TRAINING FOR CERTIFIED MIDWIVES.

Time was, and not so many years ago either, when three months was held to be a sufficient period in which to teach a woman with no previous experience as a nurse, that which it behoved her to know as a midwife theoretically, and practically, before she started an independent practice and assumed responsibility for the delivery of women in child-birth, and the care of mother and child for ten days after delivery. It is appalling, but true.

A certificated nurse with three years' training to her credit found this three months all too short. The untrained woman did not hesitate to accept quite happily responsibility which she very dimly realized.

The raising of the term of training to six months was a step in the right direction, and now the Central Midwives' Board is, we are glad to say, considering extending the period to twelve months; in our opinion the shortest period in which a satisfactory training can be given, when we consider that it should include not only the care of mother and child in the neo-natal period but also a knowledge of ante-natal work, the importance of which is becoming increasingly realised—of mothercraft, and of infant welfare work.

## QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITAL.

The Annual Report of the Midwifery Training School of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Marylebone Road, London, N.W., for the year ending December 31st, 1922, states that the work of the Midwifery Training School has been well maintained; there was an increase in the number of Pupil Midwives, and of the 150 candidates who took the Central Midwives Board Examination only six failed to pass, the percentage of failures thus being 4 per cent. only, whereas in the whole of Great Britain the percentage of failures was 23.

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 entries for the years 1921 and 1922 were as follows:—

	1921	1922
Midwives (7 months' course) ..	27	—
"   (6   "   "   "   ) ..	61	96
"   (5   "   "   "   ) ..	17	—
"   (4   "   "   "   ) ..	46	71
	— 151	— 167
Monthly Nurses (6 months' course) ..	2	—
"   "   (5   "   "   "   ) ..	10	3
"   "   (4   "   "   "   ) ..	1	2
	— 13	— 5

## THE MOTHERCRAFT TRAINING SOCIETY.

The Report of the Mothercraft Training Society (Babies of the Empire), 29, Trebovir Road, Earl's Court, London, S.W.5, for the year ending March 31st, 1923, shows that the good work done there continues to be appreciated both by the pupils and the public, who subsequently benefit by the knowledge they have gained at the Home. We note that the Report records the indebtedness of the Society to Mrs. Robert Cooke for her most generous annual gift of four Scholarships to fully-trained nurses. As a rule little interest is taken in helping those who help themselves, and conscientiously qualified as far as possible to serve the public, and we are very glad to see this evidence of appreciation of the trained nurse. We read:—

"Each of these scholarships gives free training for four months, and besides giving the benefit of much increased knowledge to the Nurse, it also gives the hospital the chance of sending out into the world other enthusiastic teachers of its methods. The following extract from a letter will show the appreciation of a mother for the increased knowledge gained by a fully-trained nurse during her short course:—

"The maternity nurse came to me after her four months' course at your Hospital, and I should like to say how much I benefited by her increased knowledge.

"I was not (considered) able to nurse my previous baby, but had we both known then as much as we do now I could easily have done so.

"All my babies have been good and healthy, but John is by far the best, and this I attribute solely to the absolutely perfect start given him by Nurse — for the two months she was with me."

"The Cornwall Hostel, at Kennington, is now under the direction of our Hon. Medical Director, Dr. R. C. Jewesbury, and several of our old students are on the staff there, and we look forward to the time when there will be many such Hostels working on Dr. Truby-King lines."

## MOTHERCRAFT TRAINING.

The Mothercraft training is as follows:—

1. Fully-qualified Nurses: Three months' course.
2. Certified Midwives: Four—six months' course.
3. Previously untrained women and girls: One year's course.
4. Young mothers, expectant mothers and girls about to marry, for whom simple, short and practical courses in Mothercraft, accompanied by demonstrations, are arranged at regular intervals.

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