

The Midwife.

MIDWIVES AND MATERNITY HOMES BILL.

The Midwives and Maternity Homes Bill has now received its Third Reading in the House of Lords.

Certified Midwives, who are not practising as such, and Registered Nurses, who are contemplating taking midwifery training in order to give the public a guarantee of their efficiency in this branch when undertaking maternity nursing, will note that the Bill makes provision for dividing the Roll of Midwives into two parts, one containing the names of all those practising midwives whose names have been supplied to the Board by Local Supervising Authorities in the month of January in each year, and another part containing the names of all other persons who are entitled to be on the Roll, at such intervals, not exceeding five years as the Minister of Health may approve.

The effect of this will be to create a Directory of practising midwives which is brought up to date annually, but to leave the printed Roll of by far the larger number of persons whose names are printed in it unamended, and therefore inaccurate for possibly five years. It remains to be seen whether Registered Nurses will consider it advisable, in the future, to incur the expense and take the extended training now required by the Central Midwives' Board, and to pay fees for admission to the Roll, which must be largely devoted to the upkeep of the Roll of Practising Midwives.

The enrolled Midwives in England and Wales not practising as such are greatly in excess of practising ones. According to the figures given by Sir Kingsley Wood, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, to the Standing Committee which considered the Midwives and Maternity Bill when it was before the House of Commons, the Midwives' Roll at the present time contains some 70,000 names, while there are only about 14,000 persons actively pursuing this profession.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

At a Meeting of the Central Midwives' Board, held on June 3rd, a letter was received from the Ministry of Health stating that in view of the amendments which will become necessary if certain of the Bills now before Parliament become law, the Minister proposes to extend the approval of the Rules in their present form for a further period expiring on September 30th, 1926, and trusting that by that date all suggested amendments to the Rules can be

considered so that the Rules, when approved, may remain in force as long as possible without further alteration.

The Board resolved that the Minister of Health be informed that the Board will endeavour to submit all suggested alterations in the Rules for approval within the time specified, and that it would welcome a return to the original practice of approving the Rules for a period of five years.

ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING THE TRAINING AND SUPPLY OF MIDWIVES.

Princess Beatrice presided at the Annual Gathering of Midwives on July 5th, at King's College for Women, Campden Hill Road, arranged by the Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives, the Headquarters of which are at Dacre House, Dean Farrar Street, Westminster, S.W. 1. Midwives were present from seven different countries.

MIDWIVES IN DENMARK.

An interesting article on Midwives in Denmark appears in *The Public Health Nurse* on Midwives in Denmark by Miss Johanne Ródtness, Chief Midwife of the State Hospital in Copenhagen, where there is the Danish School for Midwives, the only one of its kind in Denmark. Forty midwives are trained yearly, their ages varying between twenty and thirty years. They are recruited from all classes, some having a previous nurse training, but this is not essential.

Examinations are held once a year, and are conducted by Professor Hauch, the head of the School, a representative of the Board of Health, and a midwife appointed by the Board of Health. The pupils may take first, second and third-

class diplomas, the two best receiving prize awards consisting of a completely fitted midwifery bag.

The course of instruction for midwives in Denmark usually lasts one year. It is, however, the desire of the Danish midwives that the period of training should be lengthened. Every year several midwives receive permission to take a further year's training and are appointed assistant midwives, either at the lying-in hospital, or in a private nursing home, these positions affording a splendid training. In the course of November a refresher course is always held for older midwives, conducted by the director of the school and the chief midwife.

The charming illustration on this page shows Miss Ródtness, with students from Greenland.



MISS JOHANNE RÓDTNESS,
Chief Midwife, State Hospital, Copenhagen, with students
from Greenland in their native costume.

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