

mothers in America—that we seem scarcely to be considering the same question. But with us in the United States I am convinced that the only hope of safeguarding the women who have not access to doctors or medical institutions lies first in offering high-grade midwife training to high-grade women, and, second, in convincing doctors, nurses, and the public alike that the work of women so trained would be limited to supervising, teaching and working with midwives now practicing and performing normal deliveries, and giving nursing care to maternity patients, in rural communities, particularly.

Many American doctors are fearful that training of midwives would mean creating a group of practitioners who would invade their own province. But if the attitude and training are from the nursing standpoint it seems safe to assume that American doctors would find, as others have, that trained women would summon medical aid so frequently that the doctors would actually have increased obstetrical practice.

If such a Congress as this, composed of the brains and leaders of the nursing profession of the world, would declare that midwife work is a logical and dignified province of nursing, it would advance and strengthen the struggling efforts now being made in America on behalf of a legion of tragically neglected mothers and babies.

Let me say in closing that Miss Nightingale, herself pleaded for trained midwives in the same breath that she pleaded for trained nurses, and that with the fund awarded her by her grateful country at the close of the Crimean War she founded not only a training school for nurses, but a school for midwives as well.

And, in Miss Nightingale's words, may I ask,

"Can any woman wish for a more womanly work?"

THE MIDWIVES AND MATERNITY HOMES ACT.

The Minister of Health has notified Local Supervising Authorities and Boards of Guardians of the Midwives and Maternity Homes Act, 1926, which amends the Midwives Acts, 1902 and 1918, in certain important respects, and provides for the registration and inspection of Nursing Homes. The Act came into operation on August 4th, but the "appointed day" in relation to Part II, dealing with the registration of Nursing Homes, is January 1st, 1927.

Section 1 amends Section 1 (2) of the Act of 1902 in the following respects, with the object of removing the difficulties which have been experienced in preventing the practice of midwifery by unqualified persons:—

(a) It is no longer necessary, in order to secure a conviction, to prove that an uncertified woman has attended women in childbirth "habitually and for gain."

(b) The "personal supervision" as well as the "direction" of a qualified medical practitioner is now made a condition of avoiding liability under the sub-section.

(c) Male persons as well as uncertified women are now brought within the scope of the enactment.

(d) An unqualified person who attends a woman in childbirth will not be liable to penalty if he or she satisfies the court that the attention was given in a case of sudden or urgent necessity.

(e) The provisions of the sub-section do not apply to persons undergoing recognised courses of instruction in midwifery with a view to becoming medical practitioners or certified midwives.

Section 2 (1) amends Section 6 (2) of the Midwives Act, 1918, by giving a midwife who is suspended from practice (not being herself in default) in order to prevent the spread of infection, a right to recover reasonable compensation from the Local Supervising Authority; and the words in Section 6 (2) of the Act of 1918, which left the payment of

compensation in such cases within the discretion of the Local Supervising Authority, are repealed.

Power is given to the Central Midwives Board to divide the Roll of Midwives into two parts, of which one shall contain the names of all those practising midwives whose names have been supplied to the Board by Local Supervising Authorities in January of each year; and the other shall contain the names of all other persons entitled to be on the Roll, and shall be published at such intervals, not exceeding five years, as the Minister of Health may approve.

It should be pointed out that all midwives pay the same fee for admission to the Roll, and should, surely, therefore, have the same privileges.

Approximately nearly three-quarters of the midwives on the Roll will be excluded from the Annual Roll though all pay the same fees towards its up-keep.

The Act gives the Central Midwives Board power to frame a rule as to the wearing of badges by certified midwives.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

AUGUST EXAMINATION.

At the August Examination of the Central Midwives Board 481 candidates were examined, and 370 passed. The percentage of failures was 23.1.

CLAPHAM MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

It is proposed to hold a Post Graduate Course for Nurses and Midwives, during the week commencing September 27th and ending on October 2nd. All Maternity Nurses and Midwives are cordially invited. Those requiring accommodation may be told of Board and Lodgings at reasonable terms. Will those who intend joining please notify the Matron, Clapham Maternity Hospital, Jeffreys Road, London, S.W.7. There is no fee for the Course.

The Clapham Midwifery Examination will be held on October 2nd. This consists of (1) paper, (2) viva voce, (3) clinical. "Pass" marks over half marks, "Honours" List over three-quarters marks.

The fee for this Examination is One Guinea, and it is open to all Midwives and Midwifery Students, but there is no obligation upon those who attend the course to take the examination.

POST GRADUATE WEEK (27th SEPTEMBER TO 2ND OCTOBER)

<i>Monday (27th)</i>			
4 p.m.	Reception		
6 p.m.	Opening Lecture	Dr. A. McCall
<i>Tuesday (28th)</i>			
9 a.m.	Visit to Tuberculin Dispensary.		
11 a.m.	Clinical Lecture	Dr. A. McCall
3 p.m.	Lecture: Puerperal Insanity and its Prevention	Dr. K. Haslam
6 p.m.	Lecture: Points pertaining to Third Stage	Dr. J. Newton
<i>Wednesday (29th)</i>			
11 a.m.	Lecture: Some Troubles in the Puerperium	Dr. E. Baile
2-4 p.m.	Visit to Infant Welfare Centre at Hospital and Battersea.		
7 p.m.	Lecture—1. Establishment of Lactation	Matron Chippindale
	2. Care of the Normal Baby	Matron Chippindale
<i>Thursday (30th)</i>			
11 a.m.	Clinical Lecture	Dr. A. McCall
1-3 p.m.	Visit to Out Patients' Department at Battersea.		
2-4 p.m.	Visit to Ante-Natal Department in Hospital.		
6 p.m.	Demonstration—		
	1. Treatment of Ophthalmia	Matron
	2. Premature Baby	Matron
	3. Practical Contraceptives	Matron
<i>Friday (1st)</i>			
9 a.m.	Visit to Tuberculin Dispensary		
11 a.m.	Clinical Lecture	Dr. Turle Saint
2-4 p.m.	Visit to Royal College of Surgeons	Dr. J. Newton
6 p.m.	Lecture—Abnormal Pregnancy	Dr. Turle Saint
<i>Saturday (2nd)</i>			
9 a.m.	Clapham Maternity Hospital Midwifery Examination open to all		
to	Midwives and Students. Fee One Guinea.		
4.30 p.m.	This Examination consists of 1. Paper; 2. Viva Voce; 3. Clinical.		

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