

The Midwife.

CHRISTMAS BABIES.

Christmas Day seems a favourite one for babies to make their entry into the world, and this year 9 were added to the inmates of the City of London Maternity Hospital, City Road, E.C., and 8 to that of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, W.

On Wednesday, December 30th, a monster party is being given by Queen Charlotte's Hospital in the Paddington Chapel, near by, too late unfortunately for a full description in this JOURNAL. It includes a huge Christmas Tree, and 200 babies are bidden to the festivities. With mothers and friends, some 600 guests were expected.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

The Central Midwives Board has fixed the following dates for the ordinary meetings of the Board in 1926:—

Board Meetings, 1926.

January	7	June	3
February	4	July	1
March	4	October	7
March	31	November	4
May	6	December	2

At its last meeting the Board considered a letter from the Midwives Institute (through Miss Haydon) asking for the support of the Board to an application to the Trustees of the Carnegie Fund to contribute to a scheme for the establishment of an Institute for the instruction of Teachers of Practical Midwifery. The Board authorised the Chairman to sign the application on its behalf.

At a Special Meeting of the Central Midwives Board, held at 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, S.W. on December 3rd, charges alleged against five midwives were heard with the following results:—

Struck off the Roll and Certificate cancelled.—Midwives Ellen Jones (No. 45721, C.M.B. Examination), Eliza Mitchell (No. 15567), and Margaret Toone (No. 15888).

Censured.—Midwives Cicely Blake (No. 64262, C.M.B. Examination) and Sarah Ann Pennell (No. 20680).

MIDWIFERY IN THE MOUNTAINS OF KENTUCKY.

The Quarterly Bulletin of the Kentucky Committee for Mothers and Babies, of which Mrs. Mary Breckinridge, R.N., Certified Midwife, is Director, contains a very interesting account of the Survey conducted in Leslie County by Miss Bertram Ireland, who has been so highly endorsed by Sir Leslie Mackenzie for similar work in the Highlands, and was lent to the Kentucky Committee for the summer by the Committee on Maternal Health in New York.

In all, six other workers carried on this task under her directions, covering every inhabited creek and branch of the County, and crossing every inhabited mountain, visiting every house, and 1,635 families.

Miss Ireland writes of the survey, and the information obtained from these mountain people:—

"To recall dates—days and months and years—of events covering a period of 15 years is no easy task for anyone, but especially difficult where calendars and diaries and marriage lines and birth certificates and burial permits and newspapers and vacations, and even clocks, are sufficiently

uncommon as to be of little help in marking the passage of time. Where the births and marriages and deaths had been 'sot down' in the family Bible (not the one that 'had not been used for 10 years') our interviews went along quickly enough, even though each page had to be scrutinized in case of a stray entry; but where some loose sheet of paper or an old notebook or even a store catalog had to be hunted up from a certain old box kept in the depths of a trunk, or when memories had to be relied upon and consultations with the whole assembled family were necessary, we had to try to forget our fear of not getting over the next mountain in daylight. The memory of tales of dark nights when wild cats cast themselves on the heads of tired travellers, or of snakes seen to be slithering along the bridle paths, always plagued me on such occasions! But sooner or later, the details wanted were forthcoming and the forms supplied by the State Board of Health were duly filled, and the interview invariably closed with the invitation 'don't be in no hurry, I'll fix you a bit o' dinner and then you'll make the night with us.' Many a time the invitation was gladly accepted, and, on other occasions, the non-acceptance was excused only on our explaining that the more speed we made, the sooner the county would have its new nurse-midwives. I shall never forget the quiet spontaneity and cordiality with which I was treated, especially on one occasion. I had attempted to cross a mountain by a path unmarked on the map and known only to those living near. After repeated directions I missed the path twice, once in time to return to get renewed instructions, but the second time, several miles from any habitation. Fallen trees were everywhere, the mountain was steep and stony, and a snake fence seemed to surround me. The branches were so low and so thick that I had to dismount, and lead the horse, and, oh! the spiders' webs, and hissing in the grass! On and on we wandered until, most reluctantly, I decided to try to retrace my steps so as to gain the valley path; but that was easier said than done, and, to add to my feeling of fallen pride, I let a branch swing back very hard hitting the horse in the eyes. Poor Rick, however, took that blow as patiently as he took all my other amateur handling, and soon after we turned to go back, the path in the right direction became apparent. So down we went, until we came to a house where I was only too glad to comply with the hospitable greeting 'git down, come in and git a char, I'll hitch your nag.' Then followed much kindly conversation. I was given a hearty meal and the horse had food and his eyes bathed—all of which cheered and refreshed us and made us entirely fit to 'carry on.'"

POST GRADUATE LECTURES ON INFANT CARE.

A course of Post-Graduate Lectures on Infant Care for Health Visitors, Nurses, Midwives, Superintendents of Infant Welfare Centres, &c., will be given in the Lecture Hall, Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square., Westminster, S.W., on Mondays, from 6.30 to 7.30 p.m., from January 11th to March 29th, 1926. Fees for course of 10 lectures, 5s. Single lecture 1s. Tickets obtainable from the Secretary, National Association for the Prevention of Infantile Mortality, 117, Piccadilly, London, W.1.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)