

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

The Minister of Health has nominated Miss Edith Greaves, Miss Ada Davies, Dr. F. N. Kay Menzies and Mr. A. B. Maclachlan as Members of the Central Midwives Board for a period of one year from April 1st, 1927.

Other nominees are Mr. Victor Bonney, M.S., F.R.C.S., by the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Mr. Robert Arthur Lyster, M.D., D.P.H., by the Society of Medical Officers of Health, and Mr. Charles Sangster, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., by the Society of Apothecaries. Each for one year.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITAL.

The Queen recently paid a visit to Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital, Marylebone Road, which is issuing an appeal for funds to meet the cost of a considerable extension, when she was received by Sir Samuel Scott, Chairman of the Committee of Management, the Vice-Chairman, members of the Hon. Medical Staff, Miss Edith G. Dare, Matron, and Mr. Seymour Leslie, organiser of the hospital appeal fund.

There were over 70 babies in the wards inspected by the Queen, and Her Majesty was informed that although there were only, at present, 75 beds, 180 babies had been born in the hospital during the last month.

When signing the Visitors' Book the Queen recalled that as Duchess of York she had opened the Nurses' Home in 1899.

SAVING THE MOTHERS.

The Queen's interest should give an impetus to the appeal now being made by the Committee of Management for £250,000 for an urgent campaign "to save the mothers."

The situation which this important hospital extension is expected to relieve is fully described in a manifesto signed by eleven surgeons. All who desire a copy of this important statement should send at once a stamped, addressed envelope to "Urgent," Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, N.W.1.

WHY WOMEN DIE.

In this statement the surgeons lay down clearly the reasons why so many women still die in childbirth, or suffer ills arising from this natural function. It is a remarkably outspoken document. It attaches blame to Maternity Hospitals for not enlarging their work and appealing to the public for more funds; to the Public for not calling in the doctor as early or as often as is necessary; to the General Hospitals for not extending the teaching and practice of obstetrics.

ISOLATION FLAT FOR FEVER.

The surgeons note with approval that the extension of Queen Charlotte's Hospital will provide an isolation flat of 25 beds for puerperal fever cases, and other beds for ante-natal cases now neglected, but urgently requiring hospital attention.

With the £250,000 which it requires so urgently Queen Charlotte's Hospital will provide:—

Modern wards, fully equipped, for another 75 beds.

Single private rooms for middle-class paying patients.
Completely equipped pathological laboratories.
Special facilities for research into childbirth fever.
Facilities for training more doctors, students and nurses.
The £250,000 will be shared almost equally by endowment and building and equipment. The freehold of the ground is already owned by the Hospital.

Since Queen Charlotte gave her name to the Hospital (founded in 1739), on its reorganisation in 1810, five Queens have given their patronage to this splendid work.

The Ministry of Health has sanctioned a grant of £15,000 towards the funds of Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital.

THE EAST-END MOTHERS LYING-IN HOME.

The Clinical Report of Dr. W. H. F. Oxley, Medical Officer of the East-End Mothers' Home, Commercial Road, E. draws attention to the following points in regard to the total of 4,291 deliveries in unselected cases:—

1. The low Forceps and Induction rates and the absence of any Cæsarian Sections or Embryotomy.
2. The almost total absence of Eclampsia and the absence of any severe cases of Post Partum Hæmorrhage.
3. The very low Puerperal Morbidity, which works out at 1.7 per cent. for the two years, being very much less on the District than in the Home, partly due to the lower percentage of Primiparæ and of bad cases, and partly no doubt to the segregation of the patients.
4. The very small number of babies who have not gained weight on discharge, the small number of still births and neo-natal deaths. The low maternal death rate, 0.94 per thousand. (Owing to the three deaths in 1925, this is much higher than that taken out for the last ten years, which is only 0.66 per thousand.)

THE REPORT OF THE LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

Miss Margaret Anderson, the Lady Superintendent, writes in her report:—

"The difficulty of getting Pupil Nurses has been great; we have often been shorthanded and one or two free vacancies have been given, which is a great loss financially, for although the fee paid by pupils does not nearly cover their expenses, it helps greatly. Fifty pupil Midwives were sent up for the Central Midwives Board Examination and only one failed to pass.

"The pupils receive instruction in every branch of the work, from the booking of a patient, which includes social work, to the after care of the mother and child. They are therefore quite interested in all that goes on, and will have all the necessary practical knowledge to carry on the work systematically wherever they are, and the facts learned and the treatment of patients, the thought and interest taken in their affairs influences their development, leaving an indelible impression on their future lives. The teaching embraces many subjects and the pupils are so keen about learning the why and the wherefore that Dr. Oxley kindly gives an extra most interesting lecture every Monday after 9 p.m. which we all enjoy tremendously and are very grateful to him for his wise instruction."

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the East End Mothers Lying-in Home will be held at the Mansion House, E.C., on Thursday, May 26th, at 3.30 p.m., by invitation of the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress. The Lady Mayoress will preside.

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