

The Midwife.

THE EAST END MOTHERS LYING-IN HOME.

We have attended many annual meetings in support of the East End Mothers' Home, 396, Commercial Road, E., but never one more delightful than that at the Mansion House this year on May 26th.

To begin with, the Lady Mayoress was an ideal Chairman; then His Worship the Mayor of Stepney (Councillor J. Sullivan, J.P.) spoke convincingly from first-hand knowledge, for he told us that one of his own children was born in the Home, when he was working for only a day and a half a week.

Mr. J. J. Mallon, J.P. (Warden of Toynbee Hall), who proposed the Resolution of the afternoon which declared that the Home "is engaged in excellent work and deserves the widest financial support in order that it may be able to maintain its efficiency, and enlarge the sphere of its activity," said that the work was one part of the enormous activities for the public good carried on to-day. We were leaving behind an old world of callousness and cruelty, and entering upon one of tenderness and consideration.

Sir Henry Simson, K.C.V.O., in an excellent and humorous speech, seconded the Resolution, and paid a high tribute to the work of the Lady Superintendent, Miss Margaret Anderson.

Dame Madge Kendal, D.B.E., made an eloquent appeal on behalf of the Home, beginning by saying: "First of all, women in this room, don't you thank God that Miss Anderson is one of us." Further she commented on the auspiciousness of the day—Queen Mary's birthday—and said she hoped and prayed the contributions that afternoon might touch high-water mark. We are bound to say she did not find a very responsive audience, though she said in the course of her appeal, "I am only a working woman myself, but I shall be proud to give £100." With that generous donation the amount given or promised totalled £300.

After a cordial vote of thanks had been passed to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, the latter invited those present to tea hospitably provided in an adjoining room.

CLAPHAM MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

Annual Meeting.

Mrs. Pearson, the Mayoress of Lambeth, who took the Chair and introduced the Speakers at the annual meeting of the Clapham Maternity Hospital, Jeffreys Road, S.W., on May 17th, expressed her pleasure on having been appointed a member of the committee. Dr. K. Haslam, in her short speech, emphasised strongly the advantages, to medical women, of work at the Clapham Maternity Hospital, where they have all the advantages of post-graduate work to enable them to become specialists in midwifery. Dr. Joyce gave a very interesting account of her work, and of the benefits she had derived from her training at the Hospital, in connection with her subsequent thirty years of medical practice in India—a tribute to Dr. Annie McCall, under whom she studied midwifery some thirty-three years ago. Dr. Joyce stated that the need in India for highly trained workers is very pressing. Dr. Joyce Newton, Resident Medical Officer, gave a short account of the out-patient work at St. John's House, Battersea, and mentioned several cases of outstanding interest, particularly one of a premature baby which weighed only two pounds at birth, but had nevertheless done well.

In presenting the Medical Report, Dr. Annie McCall spoke

of the pressing need for funds for building purposes, especially as regards the out-patient branch at Battersea.

The annual report presented gives a splendid record of work done. The admissions to the Hospital were 697 during the year. The particulars of certain of these cases show that the Hospital is able to respond to the most urgent calls for high medical and nursing skill. The Hospital sets an excellent example in paying its way, and it closed the year, on December 31st, free of debt, but to do so the Committee had to use £399 derived from rents, and the interest on capital saved in past years, which it was hoped to save towards building a small wing on a freehold site already secured.

In the Battersea District Maternity 367 confinements were attended from St. John's Home; this branch of the work has now completed its 34th year of usefulness. The Tuberculin Dispensary is still maintaining its high record of usefulness.

In studying the balance sheet, we find that the number of subscriptions and donations to an institution of such proved and out-standing usefulness is extraordinarily small. Subscriptions amounting to £97 13s., donations to £37, the donation box yielding 9s. 6d. Other sources of income are Midwives', Nurses' and Students' Fees, patients' payments, and King Edward's Hospital Fund, and other Central Funds. We commend the Hospital to the financial support of the increasing number of those who realise the exceeding importance of the work of maternity hospitals in the promotion of the National Health.

CRADLE BONDS OF QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITAL.

With the support of two great banks, the Bank of Liverpool and Martin's, and Lloyds Bank, Queen Charlotte's Hospital is making an issue of £250,000 in £1 "Cradle Bonds."

The prospectus clearly states that "applicants will receive no pecuniary benefit," the whole of the proceeds of the issue being "payable for goodwill."

Applicants will, however, receive a "Cradle-Bond" Certificate, and will be inscribed as a holder in the records of the hospital. Holders are told that they will participate in the lessened death-rate and suffering of women from maternal causes, not only in Great Britain but throughout the world.

The proceeds of the issue will be devoted to doubling the size and capacity of the hospital, to providing greater facilities for training doctors and nurses, to providing special wards for cases of puerperal fever, which cannot at present be treated in any maternity hospital, and to providing single-bed private rooms for paying middle-class patients.

NATIONAL BABY WEEK.

National Baby Week, convened by the National Baby Week Council, 117, Piccadilly, London, W., will this year be held during the first week in July (July 1st to 7th). While regarding all aspects of maternity and child welfare work as important, the National Baby Week Council desires to draw special attention this year to the following: (a) Atmospheric pollution in relation to maternity and child welfare; (b) development of dental clinics and dental care for mothers and for children under five; (c) the home in relation to maternity and child welfare.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)