

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

The Report of the Central Midwives Board has been issued as a White Paper. An interesting decision which is recorded is that in the opinion of the Board the professional association of a midwife with an unregistered medical practitioner is undesirable, and might come within the meaning of the word "misconduct" in one of their rules. The trained Midwives on the Roll are 54,746 in number, and the untrained 7,934. The percentage of trained midwives who practise as such is relatively small, namely some 22.7 of the trained women on the Roll.

The Board has received the resignation of Miss Olive Haydon, one of its Midwife members nominated by the Ministry of Health, with great regret.

A TRAINING SCHOOL FOR MIDWIVES IN UGANDA.

"He who does the work is not so productively engaged as he who multiplies the doers."

Those who attended the Great Meeting at the Albert Hall on January 5th, in commemoration of the Jubilee of the foundation of the Mission established in Uganda, by the Church Missionary Society, could not fail to be arrested by the story of the extraordinary development of this heroic Mission.

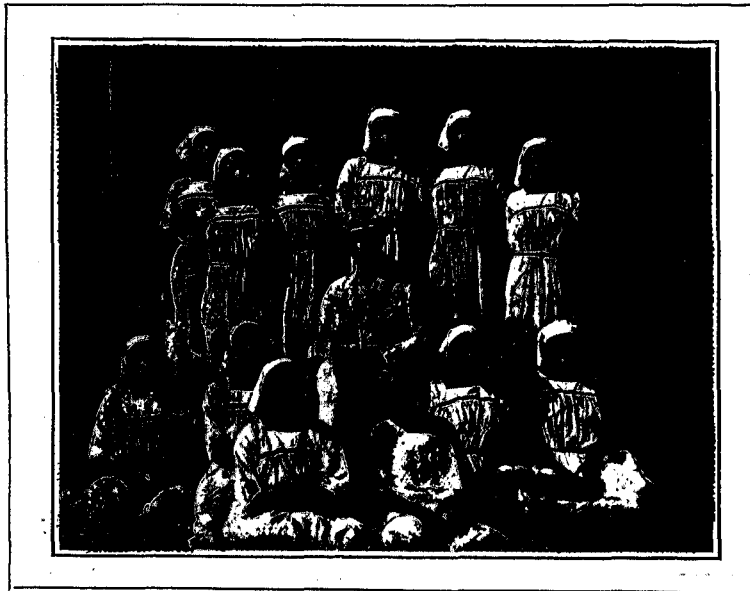
To one trained nurse in the audience, at least, the most interesting picture of a number thrown on the screen in the course of the evening was that which, by the courtesy of the Society, we are able to reproduce, for it recalled a conversation in a ward of the Hospital of the Universities Mission in Zanzibar over thirty years ago, with the late Bishop Tucker—Father-in-God, Statesman, Artist, and practical idealist, Bishop of East Equatorial Africa—for the diocese was not then divided—who gave himself into its care for a while, when the walk from Uganda to the Coast had proved too much for even his splendid physical powers.

The conversation turned on "Mission work" and the way in which care for the bodies of men and women was not infrequently considered "secular," and consequently ignored by the promoters of Christian Missions, although so much of our Lord's Ministry on earth was devoted to the work of healing, and He expressly ordained the Twelve Apostles "to preach and to have power to heal sicknesses." The Bishop agreed, and said that it had been rather the point of view of the C.M.S. Two years later, medical work was established at Mengo, the capital of Uganda, and has so increased under the fostering care of Dr. Cook that the hospital has now 180 beds, and the inpatients in

a recent year there have been 2,069, and the outpatients' attendances 22,589.

To Mrs. Cook (*née* Timpson), a Guy's Nurse, belongs the credit of establishing the Lady Corydon Maternity Training School, and in 1924, at a public ceremony Dr. Cook gave a brief account of its development. Twenty-four Baganda women have passed the Government examination in Midwifery and thirteen infant welfare centres have been opened in the Protectorate. The ceremony concluded with the presentation by Lady Archer of the Government Diplomas of Midwifery, and the Certificates of the Central Midwives Board (four Diplomas and eighteen Certificates) to the first Baganda Women Students (brought up in the unhealthy environment of typical native houses) to gain a Government Diploma.

"He who does the work is not so productively engaged as he who multiplies the doers," and Mrs. Cook is sincerely to be congratulated on this multiplication of "doers" in the heart of Central Africa.



MRS. COOK, S.R.N. (*née* Timpson).
Students at the Maternity Home, Mengo, Uganda.

Nursing in Nyasaland.
Miss Alice Simpkin, F.B.C.N., Sister-in-Charge of the Hospital on Likoma Island, in her interesting booklet, "Nursing in Nyasaland," to which reference was made in this journal last month, writes: "Infant mortality is very high in Eastern and Central Africa; there is no exception to this rule in Nyasaland. It is only

of late years that twins and weaklings have been allowed to live, and a child was considered ill-omened, and destroyed, if it cut its upper teeth before its lower. A mother might try to save her child, but she would be hunted out by relatives, or the witch doctor, and the offending infant would be [killed as a danger to the family, and the family means the whole village.

"At the present time, if a mother dies, and there is no relative at hand who can feed her baby, no attempt is made to give the child a more suitable diet than half-cooked water gruel, consisting of maize flour; or, at its best, and that rarely, of arrowroot. If the family lives in the neighbourhood of a mission hospital, the babe is generally taken to the nurse, who will give a suitable milk diet, or failing milk, Glaxo, if—and it is a big 'if'—she can afford it. We can barely touch the fringe of the question of infant welfare, but a beginning has been made, and opportunities are endless. The mothers in need of help during their confinements send to the Mission, more particularly the nurse in the Mponda's district is in request at such times."

As time and circumstances permit the nurse goes to spend a day in the out stations attached to the larger stations.

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