

The Midwife.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AT THE EAST END.

The Prince of Wales gave immense pleasure recently by visiting the East End Mothers' Home, in Commercial Road, speaking cheerily to the mothers and admiring the babies. His visit must also have been deeply appreciated by its devoted Matron, Miss Anderson, who spends her life in their service.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

The Badge of the Certified Midwife.

By the courtesy of the Central Midwives Board we are able to reproduce the Badge now officially sanctioned and protected under the new Rules of the C.M.B. for Certified Midwives. The Badge, which is the size of our illustration, is carried out in oxidised metal with a blue enamel band, on which the words "Certified Midwife" appear, and is worn suspended on a blue cord hung round the neck.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD FOR SCOTLAND.

At a meeting of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland, held for the election of office-bearers—Dr. James Haig Ferguson in the Chair—Dr. Haig Ferguson was unanimously re-elected Chairman. Sir Archibald Buchan-Hepburn, Bart., was re-elected Deputy-Chairman, as also Convener of the Finance Committee.

The meeting appointed other committees and examiners, and approved, subject to inspection by the Board, the list of recognised Institutions, with the teachers attached thereto, for the training of midwifery nurses.

THE FEBRUARY EXAMINATION.

The Examination of the Board, held simultaneously in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee, has just concluded with the following results:—

Out of 98 candidates who appeared for the Examination, 90 passed. Of the successful candidates, 14 were trained at the Royal Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh; 31 at the Royal Maternity Hospital, Glasgow; 3 at the Maternity Hospital, Aberdeen; 9 at the Maternity Hospital, Dundee; 9 at the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, Edinburgh; and the remainder at various recognised Institutions.

THE IMPROVED STANDARD OF MIDWIFERY.

The Minister of Health when recently opening the Post Certificate School of the General Lying-in Hospital, Southampton Street, Camberwell, said that since the period of training for midwives in this country had been increased from three to twelve months the standard of midwifery in the country had improved enormously. It was a great feat to have halved the infant mortality rate in a quarter of a century.

MIDWIVES ORDINANCE.

Dr. A. R. Cook, C.M.G., O.B.E., writes in the *Uganda Church Review*: In a recent session of the Legislative Council one matter was dealt with which I venture to think is of

supreme importance, viz., the passing of the Midwives Ordinance.

It is of importance for a double reason. In the first place, for all who are justly proud of the name and fame of our young Protectorate and its rapid development, it is no slight thing that Uganda is the first of our great African Dependencies to lead the way in placing on the Statute Book a far-reaching ordinance like this, which will have a great and growing influence in ensuring that the lives of countless mothers and of their infants will be safeguarded and preserved, and a powerful blow struck at the appalling infant mortality and waste of human life due to ignorance, dirt and disease. It must be remembered that England herself only passed such an ordinance in 1902.

In the second place, it is a veritable landmark in the progress and uplift of native women in Uganda.

This ordinance is not a piece of hasty legislation. It is the result of seven years' steady labour. Its history is not uninteresting. Early in 1919 Mrs. A. R. Cook, M.B.E., who was then engaged in tentative efforts, which resulted in the formation of what was afterwards called the Lady Coryndon Maternity Training School, brought to the notice of the then P.M.O., Major Wiggins, legislation which had been introduced into the Punjab regulating the status and practice of Indian midwives. With this for a starting point, a Midwives Ordinance was passed in 1921.

Growing experience, however, showed defects in both the legal wording and the practical working of this measure, and the new ordinance is in every way a great improvement on its predecessor which, strictly speaking, never found its way on to the Statute Book.



THE BADGE OF THE CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

AN ADVENTURE IN MIDWIFERY.

Mrs. Breckinridge writes in the Quarterly Bulletin of the Kentucky Committee for Mothers and Babies of an endeavour to keep Christmas on December 6th, postponed by raging torrents.

Five babies chose this inauspicious moment to make their advent. The rule of our nurse-midwives, says Mrs. Breckinridge, is simple. If anyone can come for us, we can go to them. Horses were out of the question. For the first Heyden baby, Miss Caffin went with the father across the Middle Fork on the swinging foot bridge, with the flood barely two feet below her. There were five such swinging bridges over the Middle Fork before the Christmas "tides," there are now but two.

At Wendover, Miss Halsall was called out at 4.20 o'clock on the morning after Christmas for a case on Coon Creek, six miles away. The man who fetched her said the back water from the river covered the road most of the last mile and his horse had sometimes to swim. Miss Halsall rode off with him into the gray dawn.

Eight hours later her horse, Nellie Grey, came back dripping wet, saddle bags dangling, and riderless.

If one's hair turned white every time, we should all be crowned with snow. This time the strain was not for long. As Martha Prewitt hurried off, the missing nurse came down the trail. She had been dragged off her horse but was uninjured.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)