

The Midwife.

THE EAST END MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

Miss Margaret Anderson, Lady Superintendent of the East End Maternity Hospital, 384-398, Commercial Road, London, E., who always writes so charmingly of the mothers and babies to whom she has devoted her life, says, in its Annual Report:—

"The ever helpful 'Samaritans'—how can gratitude be efficiently expressed for their continuous help? It would be delightful to mention name by name, Guild by Guild, and Society by Society, extolling the work of each and all, but that would mean writing a book. Yet one thing must be mentioned, as it will delight all, and that is the 'Twin Lady,' in case she is called upon to wear a halo (which doubtless will consist of glittering twin babies) in the Better World, has endowed our twin babies of the future.

"Let our friends comfort themselves with the fact that no mother or child goes from this Home to hunger or nakedness. It is by their work and theirs only that there are lovely soft gowns for the babies to wear in which they grow and wax fat—vests to send them home in and supplementary garments for both mother and infant in necessitous cases, which are still far too numerous. The gifts that brighten the countenance and lighten the heart of the recipients are reflected in the hearts of the good Samaritans, who, by their love, have brought about the transformation from despondence to hope. This Old Mother Hubbard never goes to the cupboard and finds it bare of either clothes or money for food.

"Our work would wear us out and could not be efficiently done without their continuous help. We absolutely could not leave a district mother without being able to give her a hot drink or leave a baby without sufficient clothing.

"Kind deeds are the motive power of the world, they have a power which seems to be beyond natural causes, as if something from the world beyond had lost its way and come to earth. May our friends be given the power to carry on their Divine work, and may Almighty God be with them all.

"Gratitude is but a lame sentiment, thanks so often fail to convey the thankfulness and relief that the gifts have brought.

"For gifts of money and in kind we received, our gratitude is great and the result of the year's work is your reward, for happiness is a perfume you cannot sprinkle on another without getting a few drops on yourself. This great national work goes forward by your generous assistance, and progress does not produce ease, but greater burdens, which, please God, you will be able to carry without halting by the way."

Why not join the company of ever helpful "Samaritans" here and now, and send some gifts to Miss Anderson, and help to make Christmas merry in a very poor neighbourhood?

THE MIDWIFERY TRAINING SCHOOL, QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITAL.

Queen Charlotte's has established a very excellent record in the examinations of the Central Midwives Board, and last year of the 60 candidates who sat for this examination only one failed to obtain her certificate, the percentage of failures being thus 1.6 compared with 18.1 for the whole country.

NATIONAL BABY WEEK COUNCIL.

An important meeting of the National Baby Week Council, presided over by Sir J. Gomer Berry, Bart., Chairman of the Council, was held at 117, Piccadilly, London, W., on November 29th, when short addresses were given on the three subjects which the Executive Committee has selected for special emphasis during the Council's campaign next year. These were:—

(a) "Practical Measures to combat Material Mortality, Morbidity and Disability," by T. Watts Eden, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.

(b) "What Local Authorities and Parents can do to lessen the incidence and dangers of Infectious Diseases amongst young children," by W. A. Lethem, Esq., M.C., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

(c) "The Importance of the Teaching of Parentcraft and Hygiene to School Children," by Miss Freda Hawtrey, Principal, Avery Hill L.C.C. Training College.

An interesting item in the proceedings was the presentation of awards to winners in the Council's Essay Competition for School Children, 1928.

THE MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY "POUND DAY."

The annual "Pound Day" was held at the Headquarters of the Mothercraft Training Society—Cromwell House, Highgate Hill—on Nov. 26th. The Countess of Kenmare, who kindly came to receive the gifts, said she had read the Society's Report with much interest, though its work was already known to her, for she had come into close contact with one of its nurses, and fully realised the importance of many of the Truby King principles, especially the one emphasising the importance of natural food for a baby, and had done her utmost to instil this principle into the minds of all young mothers in Ireland with whom she had come into touch.

Lady Kenmare then went the round of the nurseries. Sets of baby clothes, made by the pupils taking the year's course of training, were on view, and later three prizes were presented by Lady Kenmare for the best needlework. The work had been judged by Mrs. R. J. Cooke, who was also responsible for the very beautiful prizes given, but unfortunately she was not able to be present. The first prize was won by Nurse J. B. Balls, whose work reached a very high standard of excellence.

While a most welcome tea was being hospitably served, Lady Kenmare took the responsibility of drawing the winning ticket in a raffle for a large doll.

The day was fortunately fine, and a large number of mothers and friends interested in the work came during the afternoon, and as usual their gifts were most generous. £80 was received in money, and the gifts in kind have been valued at £15. These gifts took the form of sugar, tea, raisins, mincemeat, fruit, etc., all most acceptable for the Hospital store-cupboard, especially when Christmas is drawing near.

LAST WORDS FOR 1928.

In the older days of Art
Builders wrought with greatest care
Each minute and unseen part,
For the Gods see everywhere.

Build to-day, then, strong and sure,
With a firm and ample base;
And ascending and secure
Shall to-morrow find its place.

LONGFELLOW.