

profession more attractive, and one that will draw into it people of first-rate capacity and of education. They have very nearly concluded their investigations, and when those investigations are completed you may depend upon it that action will follow as may best be indicated by what we have learned.

"In the same way investigations are going on, and have been going on for some little time, into the actual cause of deaths of women who die in confinements. It is through that alone that the knowledge can be gained that will enable us to devise the proper remedy.

"There is no doubt that in a maternity hospital of this kind there will be a tendency, I hope, for towns to send, in addition to ordinary cases, whatever difficult and complicated cases there may be.

"That is why I welcome this as a pioneer work. It is a pioneer work of the very greatest importance to the country, but it is a pioneer work in which women must play their part by creating that public opinion that will support institutions of this kind and that will make their own sex ready to derive the benefit that is waiting for them from it."

#### QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

At the Royal opening on May 1st of Queen Charlotte's great Silver Exhibition, the Duchess of York, who performed the opening ceremony, was received at Seaford House, Belgrave Square, by Princess Marie Louise (President), Lady Howard de Walden (Chairman), and members of the Grand Committee that is supporting the Silver Exhibition. Among those presented to Her Royal Highness were the experts who have so generously placed at the disposal of the Committee their unrivalled knowledge of antique silver, and have selected and arranged these treasures, most of which are from private houses, and have never been seen before. The Exhibition is in support of the National Mother-Saving Campaign of Queen Charlotte's Hospital.

#### THE EAST END MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

The Annual Meeting of the East End Maternity Hospital, 396, Commercial Road, London, E., is this year to be held at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, by the kind permission of the Rt. Hon. Sir Neville Lyttelton, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., on Wednesday, May 15th, at 4 p.m.

The Report of the Lady Superintendent, Miss Margaret Anderson, S.R.N., included in the Annual Report, is always a very human document from which we extract the following items.

#### Report of the Lady Superintendent for the Year ending December 31st, 1928.

In this Hospital there are no to-morrows or yesterdays, for day dovetails into night and night into day. It is ever to-day with its many responsibilities and almost continual mental disquiet as the matters daily dealt with range from a broken rain pipe to broken hopes, and from frayed window cords to frayed tempers, and above all the care of the mother and child. We live from day to day with a cheerful confidence in the good to come, for we have blessed life around us and happy mothers and babies. The road that we have travelled stretches far behind us. God be thanked it is so, and that the bitterness and sorrows of the day are smiled at on the morrow, and far better wear ourselves out polishing the Star of Hope than building reservoirs for tears.

In an annual report, alas, yesterdays must be reviewed, for the present has ever to learn from the past. It shall begin by a quotation from a local newspaper showing the standing we hold in the district. "An Arab proverb runs—

'There is no better place than the best,' and the East End Maternity Hospital, formerly known as

the East End Mothers' Lying-In Home, fills two important roles, that of providing a hospital to which a woman can go in the full confidence that she will enter into motherhood under the best possible conditions, and that of securing Nurses a very valuable training in an important branch of their work."

The pupil midwives are taught that a mother's general health is important, and that thorough Ante-natal work is the surest foundation of successful midwifery.

They realise that a midwife must have a heart that never hardens, a temper that never tires, and a touch that never hurts, so God be with them in their every endeavour, for they were a cheery, hard-working, happy lot and loved their work, and were so proud and happy when everything went well.

The Ante-natal Clinic has grown considerably—so much that an extra four hours a week has been given to this work, and Miss Page has demonstrated that in God's world for those who are in earnest there is no failure. No work truly done—no word earnestly spoken, no sacrifice freely made was ever made in vain. The final result of our work owes much to the efficient Ante-natal supervision of our patients—6,958 visits were paid to this department.

The Post-natal work shows that the patients are really well when discharged—very few complications arising, except the ever present one of finding the baby fed on artificial food, which saddens us. When the mother is discharged the baby is entirely breast fed and doing well, but alas, on the return visit, six weeks afterwards, too many mothers say they can no longer nourish the infant, and that it is now fed on some dried milk concoction. There is no need to ask on the return visit how the baby is fed, one glance at the child shows that the maternal method has failed. Perhaps the strenuous lives that the mothers live account for this, but as extra food for them can be had on application to the Borough, we greatly regret the infants are so often deprived of their natural nourishment.

The loyal work done by our Staff is delightful to think of, and half the misery of the mothers is extinguished by offices of compassion, benevolence and humanity.

One mother after another is delivered and comforted as if she and her baby were the only thing that mattered in life and to do the work in this way calls for superhuman patience and love, and is the keynote of our success.

The social conditions are improved, there is more employment for the men, but dock work is so uncertain, that the dole makes the surest income. Nevertheless, the independent, self-respecting man will starve rather than take what he has not earned, therefore the poor we have ever with us, also the overcrowded homes. Just think of a most respectable family of 7 in one back room, living, eating, washing, sleeping and doing the laundry in the same few inches. At night a bed upon chairs is put up for the boys and the girls sleep at the foot of the parents' bed. Poor souls, what can they do without money and without friends and with the husband often out of work. The Council has been appealed to and have promised to bear the case in mind.

The various Councils are building houses as fast as they can and good dwellings too. May the time soon come when we can look back and speak, not of the "good old times" we hear so much about, but of the bad old times when houses were overcrowded and mothers underfed. That time is coming but in the far future.

#### CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD, IRISH FREE STATE.

Mrs. Margaret Price, Dispensary Midwife for Finglas District, Co. Durham, has been appointed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to the Central Midwives' Board. Mrs. Price received her training at the National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street, Dublin, and is a member of the Irish Nurses' Union.

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