

The Midwife.

THE EAST END MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

The Annual Meeting of the East End Maternity Hospital was held on May 14th, and was presided over by the Chairman, Dr. Owen Lankester. A large and representative gathering, included the Rt. Hon. Viscount Goschen, G.C.I.E., Sir Percy Shepherd, C.C., Lady Jeykll, D.B.E., the Mayor of Stepney, and Dr. O. Donovan.

One felt whilst listening to the account of the wonderful work being done by this Hospital, that the poorest mothers are fortunate, in having as good a chance as their richer and more influential sisters of going through their time of pregnancy and childbirth, with the minimum of danger and the maximum of safety.

Dr. W. H. F. Oxley, the Hon. Medical Officer, in speaking of the 50,000 mothers, who have been attended since the foundation of the hospital, said the death-rate had been only one in 1,000, instead of 4 per 1,000 as is general. He emphasised the value of ante-natal work, and pointed out that since this work had been compulsory the death-rate had dropped from one per 1,000 to .067 per 1,000. When Sir George Newman visited the East End Maternity Hospital recently, he said: "A Government Commission had been sitting for two years on the question of reducing the maternal death-rate, but it seemed to him that the best way would be to tear up all the foolscap and just do as the East End Maternity Hospital was doing." (Applause.)

Concluding, Dr. Oxley said there was no royal road to prevent maternal deaths, but if doctors and nurses put their hearts into the work of midwifery and worked up to an ideal, if we did not entirely prevent deaths, we should, at least, make Motherhood as safe for the mothers as any other physiological function. (Applause.)

The Mayor of Stepney, in proposing the adoption of the Annual Report, spoke at length on the benefit such a Hospital was to the mothers of East London, where many of them had to live in small over-crowded rooms.

Dr. O'Donovan, in seconding the motion, said he worked for many years in East London, and had never heard anything but praise of the work carried on in the East End Maternity Hospital, which put heart into every one. The well-being of the mothers did not depend on any Ministry but that of efficient doctors and nurses. Maternal mortality would not be stamped out by Act of Parliament, but by setting up beacon lights of efficiency to stimulate and encourage all who work amongst the mothers to carry on and achieve greater things.

Lord Goschen gave some interesting stories about nursing conditions in India, and said it was delightful to come back after six years in India to find still the same atmosphere of kindness and sympathy throughout the hospital and to see the great improvements which had been made possible in the accommodation both for patients and nurses.

It was good to hear that the financial position is also very satisfactory, much better than the Committee had anticipated, for the debt of £26,000, incurred when the new premises were acquired, has been reduced to £1,800, an achievement upon which the Committee of Management, the Medical Staff, the Lady Superintendent, Miss Margaret Anderson, and the Secretary, Mr. Harry A. Page, are alike to be congratulated.

After the meeting, the visitors were entertained to tea, and invited to inspect the wards which looked delightfully

bright and pretty. One came away with a memory of happy, bright-faced mothers and beautiful babies snuggling down in their cots, and we were not surprised when one mother said: "If I have twenty more babies, I shall always come into the East End Maternity Hospital to have them."

CLAPHAM MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

Mrs. Stanley Baldwin, speaking at the annual meeting of the Clapham Maternity Hospital, Jeffreys Road, S.W., which is staffed by medical women, congratulated the hospital on the fact that its mortality, 1 in 1,275, is the lowest in the country, Mrs. Baldwin continued: "I am a great believer in ante-natal clinics—we want them everywhere—in maternity hospitals, and then, in turn, infant welfare centres and nurses' schools, so that we have nothing but A1 children who will become the future citizens of the State."

QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITAL.

The Committee of Management of Queen Charlotte's Hospital report that since their last Annual Report was issued considerable progress has been made with the scheme for rebuilding the Hospital on the new site at Goldhawk Road, Hammersmith. The building of the Isolation Block, from the plans of Mr. E. Stanley Hall, F.R.I.B.A., was commenced in August last and the Foundation Stone was laid on November 4th by H.H. Princess Marie Louise. The Committee are glad to report that it has now been possible to fix a date for the opening ceremony, which H.R.H. Princess Mary, Countess of Harewood, has kindly consented to perform on Thursday, July 10th.

The Committee are very pleased to report that the special fund inaugurated by Lady Williams to make provision for patients to receive an anæsthetic during confinement has been completely successful. In May last one Resident Anæsthetist was appointed. Since the close of the year a second Anæsthetist has been appointed, thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Anthony de Rothschild and Mrs. Stanley Baldwin's Birthday Fund. It is hoped it will now be possible to arrange for every patient to receive an anæsthetic during her confinement in the Hospital. The Committee are much indebted to these ladies for their efforts in bringing this project to so successful a conclusion.

The number of patients who attended the ante-natal departments either at the Hospital or at the Kensington District Home was 4,527, the total number of attendances being 15,109. All the patients booked for admission to the Hospital or to be attended at home by the Hospital Midwives receive regular care and treatment at these Centres, which are also open to other patients sent by doctors and midwives.

The Midwifery Training School.

Queen Charlotte's Hospital has reason to be proud of its results in connection with the Central Midwives Board Examination during 1929.

The number of nurses who sat for the Central Midwives Board Examination was 81, and all but one passed. The percentage of failures over the whole country was 17.0.

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