

# The Midwife.

## THE LATE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

Midwives have for long been so accustomed to regard the late Sir Francis Champneys, Chairman of the Central Midwives Board, as one who was sincerely desirous of raising the standard of midwifery, and who truly and impartially administered justice, that we feel sure they will be pleased to have the portrait which, by the courtesy of the Editor of the *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Journal*, we are able to publish on this page.

Sir Francis was not only a distinguished obstetric physician, but was a fine musician, and a cultured and devout Churchman.

### CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD AND LOCAL SUPERVISING AUTHORITIES.

The Central Midwives Board proposes to convene a conference between members of the Board and representatives of local supervising authorities on March 4th, 1931, on matters connected with the administration of the Midwives Acts.

Matters proposed to be discussed at the conference comprise:— (i) matters arising out of the revision of the Board's rules in section E; (ii) the question of the transfer to the local supervising authorities of the powers of conducting penal proceedings before the Board; (iii) the question of the provision of better facilities for post-certificate training; (iv) the question of what steps can be taken to provide for post-examination experience of pupil midwives prior to certification; (v) the qualifications of inspectors of midwives; and (vi) the postponement of sentence in certain penal cases coming before the Board and the placing upon probation of the midwives concerned.

### THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S QUARTERLY RETURN.

The Registrar-General's quarterly return, just issued, shows that the birth-rate in the third quarter of the present year was 16.5 per 1,000, which is 0.1 more than the rate for the same period of last year. The death-rate was 9.6 per 1,000, which is 0.1 below that of 1929.

The infant mortality rate is 45 per 1,000 live births.

This rate is 14 per 1,000 below the average of the ten preceding third quarters, and is the lowest ever recorded in any quarter, being 5 per 1,000 below that of the third quarter of 1927, the lowest formerly reached.

A friend recently drew our attention to the small birth-rate per family as partially responsible for the diminished demand for maternity nurses. "I was one of seventeen," she said, and seemed to think this by no means unusual. "How often would you hear of that now?" Well, we confess we do not remember, in recent years, having heard of it at all.

Dr. W. F. Menzies, Medical Superintendent of the Staffordshire County Mental Hospital, Cheddleton, Leek, speaking at the recent Public Health Congress at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, expressed the opinion that the day of small families is only temporary and the time will come again when financial circumstances will be better, emigration will be popular, and large families will be the rule, as they were in the past.

### VALUABLE REPORTS.

We wonder how many of our readers realise what extremely interesting and valuable Reports are published from time to time by His Majesty's Stationery Office, containing information unobtainable elsewhere. Recently it has published the Interim Report of the Departmental Committee of the Ministry of Health on "Maternal Mortality and Morbidity" (price 2s., post free 2s. 3d.), and a Special Report by the Medical Research Council on the "Causes of Neo-Natal Death" (price 1s. 6d., post free 1s. 8d.), both subjects with which midwives should be conversant. The Reports may be obtained

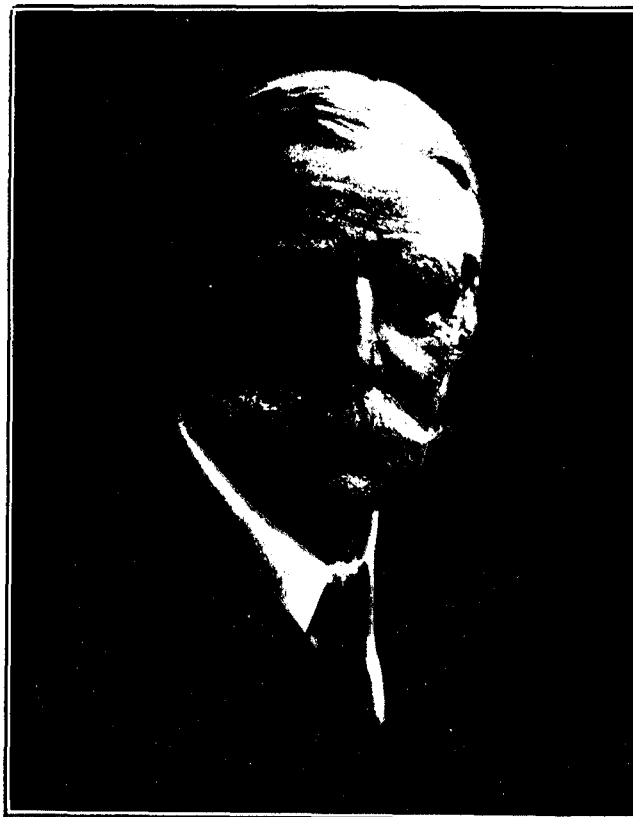
from H.M Stationery Offices at Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.

### LAST WORDS FOR 1930.

I believe that life is the expression of a will or law which has a purpose in every one of its manifestations.

I believe that this world is only a shadow of the real world, and I think that by brooding on what is brightest and most generous in this world the beauty and the bounty and the majesty of the real world shine in upon the soul.

*John Masefield, Poet Laureate.*



*F. H. Champneys.*

SIR FRANCIS CHAMPNEYS, BART., M.D.,  
Chairman of the Central Midwives' Board, 1902-1930.