

THE PROVISION OF A MATERNITY SERVICE.

Dame Janet Campbell, D.B.E., M.D., M.S., in her Report on "Infant Mortality" to the Ministry of Health, writes:—

"Midwifery in working-class homes cannot be properly carried out unless it is subsidised in some way so as to complete the limited service which the mother's own means can provide. Much has indeed already been done through the maternity benefit payable under the National Health Insurance Act, and through the action of the Local Authority under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act to increase the facilities available for the mother. But not enough. It has been suggested that maternity benefit should be modified so as to provide the free services of a doctor and midwife for every woman now entitled to receive this benefit, as well as giving her a certain cash benefit to be expended as she wishes. Such provisions, together with an extended and systematic use of the existing powers of the Local Authority to offer institutional and other facilities (including advice or treatment from a consultant, or skilled nursing), would go far to secure for every woman that complete maternity service which is so desirable. It would also serve to bring about a far more general application of ante-natal supervision and of co-operation between all who may be concerned in the approaching confinement than is possible in any other way. One of the great difficulties of securing proper physical examination before labour sets in is the inertia and disinclination of the patient herself, who does not realise the importance of this. If ante-natal examination became an ordinary but integral part of a National Maternity Service it would soon be accepted as part of the usual business of having a baby."

ANÆSTHETICS IN MATERNITY CASES.

A letter in the *Times*, influentially signed by the Duchess of Atholl, the Duchess of Portland, Mrs. Baldwin, Lord Carson and Lord Buckmaster, states that it is a fact not widely known that women who bear children in London hospitals or infirmaries do not, except in rare cases, obtain any relief from their sufferings by the use of anæsthetics. In other words, poor women, by reason of their poverty, have to pay the price exacted for the privilege of motherhood without the protection against its pains which women in their private homes generally enjoy.

In certain, if not in most hospitals, the signatories assert, this fact is due to lack of funds, and they make a wide appeal to women and to men to provide the means by which this condition can be ended or at least relieved. To attain this, a specially qualified person must be in attendance at each hospital, and for such provision a considerable capital sum is required both for the salary and for the extra accommodation. The Royal Free Hospital, as an instance, would gladly undertake that moneys so raised should be specially devoted to this purpose.

Women, they say, surely cannot refuse to help their poorer sisters at the moment when all womanhood is one; and men, could they only realise to what a cost they owe their lives, would feel that in answering this appeal they are not making a gift but trying to discharge the obligation of a deep and heavy debt.

Subscriptions should be sent to Lady Balfour of Burleigh, 31, Bedford Gardens, W.8.

THE KENTUCKY STATE ASSOCIATION OF MIDWIVES.

Those of our readers who have followed the fortunes of the Kentucky State Association of Midwives from its foundation will be interested to learn that, at the request of Dr. A. T. McCormack (the State Health Officer), the Association has just been incorporated under the laws of the State of Kentucky.

This is the first association of midwives organised,

incorporated and promoted by midwives in the United States.

Articles of Incorporation.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS :

That we, Mary Breckinridge, Betty Lester, Ellen Halsall, of Leslie County, Kentucky; Edith Matthams of Clay County, Kentucky; Dorothy F. Buck, Rose McNaught, Dorothy White, Bridget M. I. Ristori, Marion Price, Edith E. Batten of Leslie County, Kentucky; Gladys M. Peacock, Mary B. Willeford, Ellen E. Marsh of Clay County, Kentucky; and Alice L. Logan, Annie P. MacKinnon, and Mary Harry of Leslie County, Kentucky, do hereby associate ourselves together to form a corporation under the laws of the State of Kentucky.

ARTICLE 1.—The corporation hereby proposed to be organised shall be named and known as Kentucky State Association of Midwives, by which name it may contract and be contracted with, sue and be sued, adopt a corporate seal and conduct its business. It shall have power to receive and hold such property, real and personal, whether obtained by purchase, gift or devise, as may be necessary to carry on or promote the objects of the corporation, and to sell or dispose of such property at pleasure, unless prohibited from disposing of such property, under the terms of gift or devise.

ARTICLE 2.—The principal office and place of business of said corporation shall be in the City of Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky.

ARTICLE 3.—The nature of the business proposed to be transacted, promoted and carried on by this corporation shall be to foster, encourage, and, in the qualifications for its own membership, to maintain a high standard of midwifery with special reference to rugged, difficult and economically poor areas; to do this in co-operation with the State Board of Health and the officers thereof, and in co-operation with the medical and nursing professions and with other like-minded citizens and organisations; and thereby to raise the standard of midwives and nurse-midwives, who are or have been or may hereafter be engaged in the active practice of midwifery, to a standard not lower than the official standards required by first-class European countries in 1929.

ARTICLE 4.—Said corporation shall not have any capital stock, and no private, pecuniary profit or gain shall inure to any member of said corporation. Said corporation may elect from time to time, members thereof, and issue certificates of membership, and shall have the right to charge as dues such sum, as may be fixed by its by-laws, not to exceed the sum of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) per annum.

ARTICLE 5.—The affairs of said corporation are to be conducted and managed by a Board of Directors, consisting of seven (7) persons elected by the members at the regular annual meeting, held by the members of said corporation, and from the Directors so chosen there shall be elected by said Board a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer, but said Treasurer shall not be required to be a member of said Board.

ARTICLE 6.—Said corporation shall commence business as soon as the Articles of Incorporation have been duly acknowledged and recorded, and shall continue for the period of forty-nine (49) years thereafter.

ARTICLE 7.—The annual meeting of the members of said corporation shall be held at the time and place designated by the President, for the purpose of electing Directors of said corporation, and for such other business, as may come before the meeting.

ARTICLE 8.—Until said election is held, the affairs of said corporation shall be managed by a Board of seven (7) Directors composed of the following persons, who shall from their number select the required officers:

Mary Breckinridge, Alice Logan, Gladys Peacock, Mary B. Willeford, Doris Park, Betty Lester, Annie MacKinnon.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)