

The Midwife.

THE QUEEN AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

The Queen has sent her birthday donation to the National Birthday Trust Fund and has promised a similar subscription each year until the object of the Fund—the collection of 44,000,000 shillings (rs. a head of the population) for the extension of maternity services—has been achieved.

REPORTS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF INFANT MORTALITY AND THE ASSOCIATION OF MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

The Annual Report of the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, like many other Societies, finds the present to be a time of serious financial stress. The General Income and Expenditure Accounts show that there has been an excess of the latter over the former, but when we go into details, we are reminded of the words of the mother of Napoleon in Mussolini's play "I mind not that you fall if you fall greatly." If the Association has not succeeded in balancing its accounts, as regards hard cash, we do feel that the money expended has found its way into education of a type that is of inestimable value to the future race.

Important work has been done in connection with a questionnaire which has been issued to about 350 Education authorities in the United Kingdom, and the replies from these indicate that more and more the teaching of mothercraft is finding its place in elementary education. Valuable post-graduate courses for Nurses, Health Visitors, Superintendents of Infant Welfare Centres and social workers in other departments were held at Carnegie House and St. Vincent's Hospital, Westminster. The dearth of lecturers for infant welfare centres, particularly in rural areas, has been receiving the attention of the Association, and the experiment was made in Northampton of arranging a course for prospective lecturers; apparently the results were encouraging, as also were those of a course of lectures on Mothercraft organised on behalf of the Board of Education for elementary school teachers, although we deprecate the suggestion that the latter can, even after such a course, be regarded as qualified to give adequate instruction on matters connected with infant care, hygiene and other subjects that can only be regarded as specialised branches of medicine or of nursing. It reminds us of a recent suggestion that a games mistress was a suitable person to lay certain foundations of learning in aspirants to the nursing profession.

Issued with the former Report is that of the Association of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. The large number of publications sold speaks for the value of the educational work of the Association and ninety-six new centres have affiliated during the year. The Executive Committee have had many important matters under discussion throughout the year, such as "The Care of the Poor Law child under five years of age," "The Appointment of Almoners under the L.C.C.," "Insurance of Infant Welfare Centres against claims for accidents," and the like.

Competitions and examinations have evidently aroused a spirit of friendly competition and wholesome enthusiasm among centres affiliated with the Association. The Babies Homes Department, the John Maddock Convalescent Babies Home, the Arkeley Toddlers Convalescent Home, the Creagh Nursery Training School and the Babies Hotel

and Nursery Training School at Clapham, all give good accounts of themselves for the year in this comprehensive Report. Its financial side also bears evidence that the Association feels the stress of the economic crisis.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S NATIONAL MOTHER-SAVING CAMPAIGN.

The Report by Mr. W. Seymour Leslie on the occasion of the fourth meeting of Queen Charlotte's National Mother-Saving Campaign stated that, mothers delivered both in the old and new hospitals the number reached the record figure of 2,757 last year. As regards Out-Patients, mothers delivered in their own homes by Queen Charlotte's midwives, the number reached 1,780 last year, so that the total number of babies born under Queen Charlotte's care last year totalled 4,537. Not only has bed accommodation increased 60 per cent. since 1930, but there has been a vast expansion in the London areas in which Queen Charlotte's district out-patient work is conducted. The area reaches from St. Pancras and Willesden to Ealing and Wandsworth.

It will be grateful news to all associated with this campaign for saving mother-life to learn that, of the dread childbed fever cases admitted last year, most of them were rushed to the hospital by ambulance in a dangerously sick and even dying condition, 84 per cent. were discharged cured—lives saved that might otherwise have been lost. The majority of those that did not recover came late in the disease, when there was little or no hope of overtaking the infection. They were cases from all classes, for childbed fever is no respecter of persons or conditions.

Unfortunately, the MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE for England and Wales continues to show no improvement. The number of deaths of mothers in childbirth in England and Wales has, indeed, increased from 2,787 in 1929 to 2,854 in 1930—a rate of 4.40 per thousand live births. There were, in addition, 774 deaths last year from causes associated with childbirth. The figures for 1931 are to be published as usual some time in August.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD—EXAMINATION PAPER.

The following were the questions for the Examination Paper of the Central Midwives Board held on May 18th, 1932.

1. Describe the non-pregnant uterus and give its more important relations.

What changes does the uterus undergo during pregnancy?

2. In what circumstances during pregnancy, labour, or lying-in, should a midwife pass a catheter?

State precisely the procedure she should adopt.

3. What are antiseptics?

Mention those you carry in your Midwifery bag and describe in detail when and how you would use them.

4. What are the advantages of Breast Feeding?

If for any reason Breast Feeding cannot be continued what are your duties under the Board's Rules and how would you treat the mother?

5. Describe the normal lochia.

Your patient commences to bleed excessively twenty-four hours after labour. What may be the causes of this and what should you do?

6. With what Public Bodies and Officials may a midwife come into relation in the course of her work, and in what circumstances?

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