

The Midwife.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

The following is the result of the May Examination of the Central Midwives Board :—

Candidates examined	...	921
Candidates passed	...	778
Percentage of failure	...	15.5

HOW TO SAVE OUR MOTHERS.—APPEAL FOR £150,000.

Lady Howard de Walden and Mrs. Edward Baron were supported by the presence of Princess Helena Victoria and Princess Marie Louise at the dinner arranged by them at the Savoy Hotel on June 27th, in support of the Rebuilding Fund of Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital. An appeal was made for the construction of a new block on the Ravenscourt Park site, to comprise 100 beds, and for a new block to house the nursing staff in comfort. Dr. T. Watts Eden, President of the Royal Society of Medicine, emphasised the urgent need of progress in this further stage in the rebuilding programme, and said they owed a great debt of gratitude to Princess Marie Louise, vice-president of Queen Charlotte's National Mother Saving campaign, for her active participation in their work. The first stage in the recreation of the hospital had been completed.

The £150,000 for which they were asking to enable them to proceed with the second stage of their programme took into account the £50,000 which they might reasonably assume to be the minimum value of the old site. The present hospital in the Marylebone Road had no room for expansion. It could not be reconstructed, and the growth of traffic had made it one of the most unrestful spots in that part of London.

The construction of the new section on the Ravenscourt Park site would constitute the first part of the great new Queen Charlotte's, which would ultimately be the largest maternity hospital in the Empire. At the new hospital they would lessen the risks to which the mothers were subject if they could surround them not only with the greatest degree of physical comfort but also with all that science and architecture could devise for their safety. Queen Charlotte's received a larger proportion of difficult and complicated cases than any other lying-in hospital in London. It was also a great educational institution. During the last five years they had sent out over 500 midwives, and they had taken a share in the training of over 700 medical pupils. If they could, at a stroke, impart a higher degree of skill and experience to the general body of practising doctors and midwives, they would immediately reduce the national maternal mortality. It could not be done at a stroke, but they could attain it gradually if they could obtain the facilities for training which were asked for. Midwifery must be taught at the bedside and in the labour ward—not in the lecture room. Was it sufficiently realised that if the voluntary hospital system in London were to break down there would be no organised provision for the training of doctors and nurses in the Metropolis at all? Their proper training was a national necessity: why should the responsibility of it be left to the voluntary hospitals? It was a heavy load for them to carry, for medical education,

although at one time a flourishing industry, had long ago ceased to pay dividends.

Dr. Eden added that during the last five years Queen Charlotte's Hospital had been responsible for starting 20,000 babies in life. The objects for which he appealed would prove a worthy contribution towards the solution of one of the most urgent and the most distressing of our national problems—how to save our mothers.

Lady Howard de Walden announced that Mr. Anthony de Rothschild, the treasurer of the hospital, had given, on behalf of the executors of the late Mr. Alfred de Rothschild, treasurer for 35 years, £6,000 to the rebuilding fund of the hospital. This donation was in addition to £10,000 which they gave to launch the rebuilding campaign. Including the latest donation of £6,000 from the trustees of Mr. Alfred de Rothschild, the total sum already raised by the appeal amounted to over £7,600.

A film depicting the many activities of Queen Charlotte's Hospital and also the work at the new isolation institution for childbed fever and the adjoining Bernhard Baron Research Laboratories was shown.

MIDWIFERY TRAINING SCHOOL.

From the comprehensive Annual Report of Queen Charlotte's Hospital for the year ending December 31st, 1931, as will be seen from the following figures there were considerable increases in the number of Students and Nurses who entered for training.

The number of nurses who sat for the Central Midwives Board Examination was 106, and all but three passed. The percentage of failures over the whole country was 17.9.

The entries for the years 1930 and 1931 were as follows :—

	1930	1931
Medical Students (Men)	60	81
(Women)	—	8
Qualified Practitioners (Men)	40	42
(Women)	12	15
	— 112	— 146
Midwives (12 months' course)	20	33
(6 " ")	83	93
	— 103	— 126
Maternity Nurses (5 months' course)	5	8
	— 5	— 8
	— 220	— 280

General Nurses now realise that unless they possess the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board they are not considered fully qualified for the majority of the leading professional positions—especially is this true when applying for positions abroad and in the Crown Colonies.

Onward is the title of the Quarterly Journal of the City of London Maternity Hospital, situated in the City Road, E.C.1, which does such useful work in Central London. The Editor permits the insertion of amusing items under the heading: "In Lighter Vein." To quote:

"What I know about riding a bike," said the scorcher, "would fill a book."

"Yes," said the policeman, who had gathered him in, "and what you don't know about it would soon fill a hospital."

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