

The Midwife.

ONE OF THE FIRST MODERN MOVEMENTS TOWARDS AN EFFICIENT MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

The year which is just passing has been one of great inspiration in one respect. Never do we remember any so rich in its number of centenaries of great personalities. It is always good that we should keep in our hearts the memory of these and give expression to our veneration and gratitude. Our great contemporary, the *Times*, sets a fine example in this respect and, not infrequently, it devotes not only some of its most prominent columns, but also leading articles, to certain great characters, thereby making acknowledgment of our debt to the past.

During the year, both in this country and in his native land, there have been many gatherings of scholars, learned societies and other bodies to celebrate the centenary of Goethe. Now this king in the realm of literature was in the habit of telling people that he was "born black." This somewhat astounding statement leads to the discovery of an interesting fact in the history of midwifery. The truth is that Goethe was born in a cyanosed state and was, at first, regarded as dead. This serious condition of affairs was due to the inefficiency of the midwife who was employed, and it was quite an hour before Goethe could really be regarded as a living being. His father, an important citizen of Frankfurt, was so concerned and so impressed with the danger arising for women and children through the ignorance of the midwife that he at once set to work, and with considerable energy, to establish, in that important town, a more efficient midwifery service; this, so far as we can learn, led to the first steps taken by a municipal body to ensure greater safety for mothers and babies. Many valuable lives must have been lost in the past, from the ignorance which prevailed regarding the most elementary rules for good midwifery. In the case of Goethe tragedy was evaded, but we are left to realise that, had ignorance had its legitimate results, works that have become like living entities (such is the splendour of their character and achievement), would not have come into being, would not have been born. The world would have been poorer to-day for the want of the great "Faust" (that sublime story of the struggle upwards of a man's spirit). Besides this, incalculable is the loss which we might have suffered in the direction, not only of literature, but of art, science and statesmanship. Even the want of Goethe's Conversations with Eckermann would have meant the loss of one of those flames that light men on the path of knowledge. When we think of all this, we realise more than ever the need for combating the darkness of ignorance, not only in midwifery but in all branches of an art which leads to the healing and health of humanity.

MIDWIFE-TEACHERS' EXAMINATION, 1932.

PASSED WITH DISTINCTION.

| <i>Name.</i> | <i>Post.</i> |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Marjorie Alice Eliza Taylor ... | Private. |

| <i>Name.</i> | <i>PASSED.</i> | <i>Post.</i> |
|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Olive Blanden ... | ... | Staff District Midwife, City of London Maternity Hospital. |
| Esther Floweth... | ... | Assistant Sister-Tutor, Liverpool Maternity Hospital. |
| Frances Ruth Foxton ... | ... | Sister-Tutor, Mothers' Hospital, Clapton. |

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Elizabeth Essnie Jones... | Sister of the Ante-Natal and Lying-in Wards, Birmingham Maternity Hospital. |
| Ethel Knight ... | Sister, Birmingham Maternity Hospital. |
| Sophia Ladell ... | Sister-in-Charge of Maternity Department, St. Andrew's Hospital, Bow. |
| Rose Lawson ... | Sister-in-Charge of Maternity Department, Walton Hospital, Liverpool. |
| Marjorie May Mansell ... | Night Superintendent, St. Stephen's Hospital, Fulham. |
| Lillian Neild ... | Sister-Tutor, British Hospital for Mothers and Babies, Woolwich. |
| Olive Mary Turner ... | Charge Nurse of Maternity Department, St. Thomas's Hospital. |
| Barbara Ward ... | Sister, City of London Maternity Hospital. |
| Frances Edith White ... | Sister of Maternity Ward, Queen's Hospital, Birmingham. |
| Lilian Mary Whiteside... | Teaching Midwife, Preston Royal Infirmary. |

EXCUSED FIRST PART OF EXAMINATION NEXT YEAR.

Muriel Gwendoline Sanday (Sister-in-Charge of District, Guy's Hospital) failed to pass the Examination but did sufficiently well to be excused the first part of the Examination next year.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

EXAMINATION PAPER.

November 16th, 1932.

Candidates are advised to answer all the questions.

- Describe the anatomy of the vulva.
What abnormal conditions of the vulva may be found complicating pregnancy?
How may these affect labour and the puerperium?
In what way may they be prevented?
- Describe in detail the examination of the urine of a pregnant woman.
If you discover the presence of albumin what would you do to establish how far this is important?
If albuminuria exists what are your duties?
- How would you diagnose a breech presentation during pregnancy and labour?
Describe the management of the delivery of the after-coming head in a normal case.
- Describe the prevention and treatment of uterine inertia.
- What principles should guide you in the care and management of a patient and her baby in the first week of the puerperium?
Mention the chief dangers to which a puerperal woman is liable.
What can you do to prevent them?
- You are called as a midwife to a patient and on your arrival you find she is ill but is not suffering from any of the conditions set out in Rule E. 21. Indicate your duties in such a case in so far as the Rules of the Central Midwives Board are concerned.