

The Midwife.

AN ORGANISED SERVICE OF SALARIED MIDWIVES.

The King's Speech at the Opening of Parliament on December 3rd contained the following statement of great importance to State Certified Midwives:—

My Ministers will continue to promote actively the development of the social services and to take vigorous measures to improve the health and physique of the nation. . . .

Careful consideration has been given by my Government to the organisation of the maternity services with a view to providing better care for women in childbirth, and a Bill will be introduced for the provision by local authorities in co-operation with voluntary associations of an organised service of salaried midwives.

The Bill will be studied with keen interest by midwives, whose lives and professional work will be affected by its provisions.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH ON THE PAYMENT OF MIDWIVES.

Sir Kingsley Wood, Minister of Health, addressing a meeting of the National Baby Week Council held at the Ministry, said: "I do not regard the payment which midwives receive for their services as adequate to attract those women whom we would like to see engaged in such work."

MIDWIFE TEACHERS' EXAMINATION, 1935.

The following is the list of candidates who have been successful at the second part of the recent Midwife Teachers' Examination conducted by the Central Midwives Board.

PART 2.

Passed.

- Elsa Le Lacheur Alden.—Out-Patient Sister, Obstetric Hospital, University College Hospital.
 Lois Eileen Beulah.—Sister, Queen Mary's Maternity Home, Hampstead.
 Amy Bleazard.—Ward and Night Sister, St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester.
 Lillian Estelle Braine-Hartnell.—Midwifery Sister, Maternity Nursing Association.
 Ruth Cochran.—Matron, York Maternity Hospital.
 Margaret Dorothea Down.—District Sister, Maternity Nursing Association.
 Rosalind Catherine Joan Edgecombe.—Maternity Sister, Oster House, St. Albans.
 Elizabeth Sarah Franks.—Ward Sister, Bank Hall Maternity Hospital, Burnley.
 Dora Hancock.—Ward Sister, St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester.
 Marjorie Ada Harrop.—Assistant Midwife, Birmingham Maternity Hospital District.
 Ethel Elizabeth Lewis.—District Sister, Thorpe Coombe Maternity Home, Walthamstow.
 Olive Irene Moffett.—Pupil Sister Tutor, City of London Maternity Hospital.
 Ruth Armstrong Skillen.—Labour Ward and Theatre Sister, Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
 Eliza Symons.—Sister, East End Maternity Hospital.
 Victoria Isabella Edith Watson.—Sister Tutor, Jewish Maternity Hospital.
 Elizabeth Wedderburn.—Maternity Ward Sister, Sunderland Municipal Hospital.

THE HEALTH WORK OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

Under the heading "The Control of Midwifery," Dr. Geoffrey E. Oates, Barrister-at-Law and Medical Officer of Health of the Metropolitan Borough of Paddington,

has an interesting article in the *Public Assistance Journal*, in the course of which he says:—

"All midwives on the Roll are termed State certified midwives, and their practice is regulated directly by the local authorities and indirectly by the Central Midwives Board. This body is constituted by Act of Parliament, and has amongst its members both men and women, doctors, midwives and lay persons. It is felt by many practising midwives that they are not represented on the Board in sufficient strength. Bearing in mind the fact that the modern midwife is better educated than heretofore, it would appear that this grievance will have to be dealt with before long, but it must be remembered that midwifery is ancillary to medical science, and it is inevitable that the policy and practice of the Central Midwives Board must be settled by medical opinion. General medical practitioners have a similar grievance in that they are inadequately represented on the General Medical Council."

AS OTHERS SEE US.

It is interesting to see ourselves as others see us, and the following letter from Miss Mardette McMaster, addressed to the *Canadian Nurse*, proves the value of the interchange of educational courses. The Central Midwives Board has done pioneer work in standardising midwifery for nurses.

Taking the C.M.B.

"I have just returned from London, having spent a most interesting year at the Queen Mary Maternity Home, Hampstead, a small but charming hospital belonging to the Queen. The patients are all ex-Service men's wives or wives of those now in the Army or Navy. Queen Mary's Needlework Guild keeps the patients supplied with lovely things, Bermuda sends all the dresses, and Prince Edward Island provides sweet little woolies. The Queen herself brought this year's gift from Prince Edward Island, beautifully done up with wheat sheaves covered in silver paper. On the Queen's birthday a trousseau comes from the Montreal branch for the first girl born on the Queen's birthday; she is called 'the Mary baby,' and Mary is always one of her names.

The Central Midwives Board gives a course of thirty lectures delivered by doctors appointed by the Board. It is also necessary to have twenty deliveries to one's credit, fifteen of which must be in hospital, and the other five on the district in the patients' homes. A large number of ante-natal examinations must also be made. A midwife is allowed to deliver normal cases only—in any abnormal presentation a doctor must always be called in. A part of our course was taken in Hackney, in the slums of London; we stayed at a Salvation Army Home and went out from there to do our nursing and deliveries. The poverty among the patients was very great, but they were jolly and happy in spite of it. Stories of such makeshifts as having to bathe a baby in the frying-pan or in a tin basin with a hole in it, which we had to stop up with a bit of cloth, are literally true. Going to one's cases through a London fog and walking along by the old canals, watching the gypsies pass in barges, are thrilling experiences.

Canadian nurses must take a year's course instead of six months, unless their school has a special agreement with the Central Midwives Board or their province has arranged for reciprocity privileges in England. In hospital I was not treated as an untrained nurse, but for the second six months was put on the staff and given many privileges.

Taking it all in all, taking one's C.M.B. in London is great fun, even though very hard work at times, but especially nice when it includes a royal wedding and a Silver Jubilee."