

## The Midwife.

### CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER, 1936.

At the November Examination the Central Midwives Board examined 1,116 candidates, out of which number only 756 passed and earned its certificate. The percentage of failure was 29.6. It would be interesting to learn where the failures were trained, presumably the Board deals advisedly with institutions which present numerous candidates unable to pass its examination. It would be well if the Midwives Board issued statistics of the success and failure of Registered Nurses.

### CHRISTMAS BABIES.

It would appear that the mothers of dozens of babies were anxious that their babes should be born on Christmas

Day to vie with the new little Princess of Kent. Anyway, never was such a rush of births in the Maternity Hospitals of the Metropolis.

London's most famous maternity hospital—Queen Charlotte's, in Marylebone Rd., N.W.—had to close its doors to further patients, for the first time in its history.

Because—

More babies were being born than the hospital could cope with.

The Matron, Miss Dare, in twenty years' experience there, has never known so many births during Christmas.

Thirty-six babies were born during the holiday—nine on Christmas Eve, seventeen on Christmas Day, and ten on Boxing Day.

Extra beds had to be provided for the mothers and additional cots for the infants.

More than half of the babies were boys and in every case mother and baby are doing well.

Miss Dare said to a *Sunday Express* representative :—

"We have been forced to refuse any more cases, but if any arrive nurses will accompany the mother and treat her in her own home. If facilities are not available, the mothers will be taken to other hospitals."

Each of the babies in the hospital was given a suit, and the mothers a woolly coat. Christmas babies were given in addition 5s.

Other hospitals, too, had a busy time.

Fulham Hospital and the Royal Free Hospital each had seven, and the University College Hospital four. The General Lying-in Hospital, Lambeth, had nine births.

The picture on this page would indeed make Signor Mussolini's mouth water.

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health should be procured, studied and filed. Touching on Maternity and Child Welfare, it is stated that the year 1935 showed a slight reduction in the maternal death-rate, 4.6 per 1,000 live births, as against 4.11 in 1934. This, it is satisfactory to note, is (with 1927 and 1931) the lowest figure recorded since 1925, but is still too high. Much has been done to grapple with this problem, and much is expected from the Midwives Act of 1936.

The problems of maternal care may have tended of late years to obscure the steady work in connection with the welfare of the infant and young child, which is both progressive and successful. For example, the number of infant welfare centres has increased from 2,884 in 1934 to 2,993 in 1935, with an attendance of 815,295



CHRISTMAS GIFTS BORN AT QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITAL ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

children in the latter year, of whom 270,457 were infants under one year.

Mr. Baldwin, the Prime Minister, opened the extension to the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Home at Stourport.

Having paid a tribute to the generosity of Sir Julien Cahn in connection with the Home, Mr. Baldwin said that the work of matron, staff, and doctors at that hospital was among the most beautiful and interesting that fell to the lot of anyone in the world. Their work was full of happiness, because they were putting new life into the world; clothing that life in bodies as healthy and sound as skill and attention could afford. They were certainly saving the lives and the health of the mothers. His friends in the medical profession told him that they were only at the beginning in the matter of saving women's lives.

### TRUE TALE WITH A MORAL.

Definition of maternity: Nine months' hard labour and a month's solitary confinement.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)