

# The Midwife.

## THE FUTURE OF THE MIDWIFERY PROFESSION.

The Minister of Health has announced that he proposes to appoint a Committee to inquire into the future of the Midwifery Profession.

The Committee will make a comprehensive survey of the Midwifery Profession throughout Great Britain.

This would be the first time such a survey had been undertaken, and would cover Midwives who work in Institutions as well as the domiciliary midwifery services.

## OUTBREAK OF ILLNESS AMONGST BABIES.

Doctors are struggling to overcome the recent outbreak of illness that is sweeping through different parts of the country and from which tiny babies are dying.

It is considered to be a form of gastro-enteritis, and a Ministry of Health official has said that once the organism that causes the disease is found, the prospects of combating these outbreaks will be greatly strengthened.

The Medical Research Council, in co-operation with the Ministry of Health, is carrying out an investigation in which it was stated that there was no evidence of diet being a contributory cause.

Mothers, Midwives and Nurses have also been attacked by the disease, and some hospitals are closing for a period so that precautions can be taken against the return of the infection.

Although out of 700,000 or 800,000 births each year there are about 20,000 deaths during the first month of life, we hope that scientists will make every possible effort to overcome this mystery disease, and thus save the lives of as many of our babes as is humanly possible at this critical time of the year.

The world has no such flower in any land,  
And no such pearl in any gulf the sea,  
As any babe on any mother's knee.

Swinburne.

## THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD FOR SCOTLAND.

The Central Midwives Board for Scotland propose to hold their Examinations simultaneously in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen.

The First Examination will be held on Tuesday, 4th March, 1947, and the Second Examination on 4th February, 1947.

The Secretary gives notice that the last day the candidates may enter their names for the examination is one month before the examination is due to take place.

## A DUTCH MIDWIFE GIVES EVIDENCE.

A Dutch Midwife, who spent four years in Ravensbruck Concentration Camp after being arrested by the Nazis for advising parents to name their babies after members of the Dutch Royal Family, gave evidence in Hamburg recently at the trial of members of the Camp staff on war crimes charges.

Midwife Neetje Epker, aged 45, said that the foreman of the tailoring shop beat prisoners every day, and seemed to have peace only when he saw blood.

After altercation with a wardress the Midwife was kept in darkness for six weeks in a freezing underground cell, and was beaten into unconsciousness.

We hope the Committee set up will be successful in bringing to just punishment the Nazis who perpetrated these crimes.

## THE FOUR SEASONS.

How wonderful they are with their variations! Full of enchantment! I love them all, and look forward in eager anticipation to what they have in store: the joy and pleasure derived from each in turn amply compensate for the loss of the other.

*Spring* is, I must confess, dearest to my heart. If, in winter, we get despondent when the glamour of Christmas is over, the advent of *Spring*, with its promise of youth, revives us, lifting us to a higher level, and we feel that Life is worth living after all!

Everything proclaims that "Spring has come"! Trees are bedecked with green; buds are bursting forth everywhere; birds preen their wings and haste to build homes for their young; little lambs play hide and seek in the field; banks become gay with primroses and violets. With what a thrill we sight the first snowdrop! Then comes the Easter joy, without which we should have no assurance of a future life.

Who can stand on the edge of a wood where bluebells form a carpet of glorious hue; see the wild anemones; hear the birds singing and the echo of a cuckoo, without lifting their hearts in thankfulness to the Creator?

*Spring* passes but, leaving no pang of regret, for *Summer* looms ahead, bringing hours of sunshine with the prospect of holidays by the sea; watching the little ones paddling and building castles in the sand.

The countryside is picturesque with flowering trees; the air is laden with scent from dog roses, honeysuckle, and new mown hay.

How sweet is the nightingale's song!

We mourn the departure of *Summer*, but surely *Autumn* with its majestic splendour is worthy of distinction.

If you doubt it, go for an early morning ramble with eyes alert: feel the nip in the air; note the sky at sunrise, moors brilliant with heather and gorse; squirrels gathering nuts for winter storage; glorious tints everywhere. Later, watch the sun go down, and see the rising of the harvest moon.

*Winter* arrives, with all the excitement of Christmas.

We see the hedgerows bright with berries and glittering frost; the beauty of snow-clad mountains; the brilliancy of a starlit sky.

What joy mingles in our hearts, as this season of peace and good will draws near, with opportunities of bringing happiness to others, and renewing old acquaintances.

The seasons hold more than I can here describe, so I will leave you making resolutions at the dawn of a New Year.

"The universe is wonderful!  
The seasons four are grand!  
There's beauty, rich and bountiful,  
In sky, and sea and land."

EVELYN S. GILL, S.R.N., S.C.M.

## LAST WORD FOR 1946.

### WINGS OF THE MORNING.

Rise up, my Soul, from the depths of despair! Wake and arise! There is Joy in the air . . . Spread wide your pinions for heavenward flight—Winged with your Wonder—your Hope—your Delight.

Wings of the Morning—of Faith and Desire! Rise up, my Soul, for the sky is afire! . . . God's in the wind and the cloud and the spray; God's in the dark and the dawn and the day.

Reprinted from "Wings of the Morning," by Patience Strong.