

## IRISH NURSING NEWS.

Recently, Dr. Noel Browne, Eire Minister of Health, opened the new Chest Hospital at Mallow, Co. Cork. It will be a surgical sanatorium equipped with the best surgical appliances.

A regional maternity hospital is to be constructed in Limerick as the present midwifery accommodation is inadequate.

Galway is to have a new regional hospital.

Dr. Noel Browne is to launch an Anti-Cancer campaign, which he hopes, among other things, will encourage the public to seek treatment early. More people die of cancer here than of phthisis.

This young energetic Minister is determined to improve nursing conditions generally and, when the necessary staff are available, to operate the 96-hour a fortnight system in all State and Municipal hospitals.

He is eager to improve nurses' living conditions and recreational facilities and hopes that these measures will lead to greater contentment and efficiency, and encourage nurses and would-be nurses to remain in Eire.

The Eire Ministry of Health is to spend approximately £15,000,000 (fifteen million pounds) on hospital construction during the next seven years.

## "THE UNKNOWN GOD."\*

A recent publication of a religious nature "The Unknown God," by T. V. H. Barber, M.A., has been presented to the British College of Nurses Ltd.

It is a book of inestimable value to every would-be earnest Christian, setting out as it does, guidance in clarifying problems regarding the training of mind and body to follow the precepts of the Christian faith.

There are interesting items of church history contained therein, and the many scripture quotations serve as a reminder that so much can be gained by careful Bible study, and should make for greater appreciation of God's word. It sets out an analysis of the Christian faith, which is revealing and inspiring.

Emphasis is laid on good home environment and training of the young, for which there is such an unquestionable need to-day, if we hope to combat present evils, and those of future generations.

The whole theme of the book serves to show the problems of "free will" and our abuse of it.

"The Unknown God" offers much helpful inspiration to counteract this abuse. We are begged to cultivate the habit of "visualising the presence of God."

The chapters on thought and habit show how necessary it is to be able to control one's thoughts, and restrain from any indication of evil habits.

This book as a study for quiet moments and serious thought, would be a great addition to the bookshelf of those who seek the truth.

F.R.R.

## WHAT TO READ.

### MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

"Last Viceroy." Life and Times of Rear-Admiral the Earl Mountbatten of Burma, P.C., K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C. Roy Murphy.

"Via Tokyo." Christmas Humphreys.

"Arnold Bennett." Walter Allen.

### FICTION.

"Beyond the Desert." Ruth Alexander.

"Joy and Josephine." Monica Dickens.

"The Sky and the Forest." C. S. Forester.

"A Candle for St. Jude." Rumer Godden.

\*The Churchman Publishing Co., Ltd., 33 and 34, Craven Street, London, W.C.2. Price 3/9 net.

## THE MIDWIFE.

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

In 1918 the Maternity and Child Welfare Act was passed by Parliament and, with the creation of the Ministry of Health in the following year, began the history of the general care of children under five which has been exercised by the Maternity and Child Welfare Services of the Ministry and operated by the responsible local authorities in England and Wales. Scotland has its own Service, administered by the Department of Health for Scotland.

Child Welfare begins with the care of the expectant mother. The protection of the mother and new-born child from preventable hazards was regarded as primary and urgent, and the Ministry instigated reforms in medical and midwifery education. Amongst other requirements laid down were the availability of ante-natal supervision and competent obstetric services for every pregnant woman, and the provision of facilities for the prevention and treatment of puerperal sepsis.

The Government's war-time nutritional policy was framed to include a system of priorities for mothers and children, the corner-stone of which was the National Milk Scheme (in operation by July, 1940) with its principle of a pint a day for all expectant and nursing mothers and children under five. Further priorities or additional allowances (vitamin supplements, extra eggs, etc.) were introduced as the war advanced and the difficulties of food distribution increased. These measures are still in force.

### Welfare Centres

Before the National Health Service Act introduced additional services, it was under the Welfare Authority's arrangements and mostly in the Welfare Centres that free ante- and post-natal medical attention and care was given to mothers who, in many cases, could not afford to go to a private doctor for these services. And it was through the Centre that the expectant mother was able to book for her confinement, either in her home with the municipal midwife (who would call a doctor if necessary) or in a hospital. She paid a reasonable sum towards the cost of the last two services if she were able, otherwise they were provided free. Also it was in the Welfare Centre that the mother got to know her Health Visitor, who with the midwife gave her mothercraft advice before the baby was born; who visited her home after the baby's birth and regularly until it went to school, and weighed the baby and the toddlers when the mother brought them to the Welfare Centre, so that records of their progress could be kept. *These services are continuing* under the National Health Service.

### Additional provisions under the National Health Service Act

The expectant mother who is having her baby at home can now have, without charge, the services either of a General Practitioner Obstetrician (a doctor specially experienced in maternity work) or her own family doctor if she prefers it, and he is willing to undertake her maternity care.

The doctor who undertakes her maternity case will carry out certain ante- and post-natal examinations and attend her confinement if he thinks it advisable. The remainder of the ante-natal care is provided by the midwife, in conjunction, in many cases, with the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre. The midwife will attend during the confinement and lying-in-period so every expectant mother should book a midwife as well as a doctor.

Confinements in hospital will be available for mothers in cases of medical complication, and priority given where home conditions are unsuitable for first babies.

### Dental Care

In the past insufficient care has been given to the dental health of expectant and nursing mothers and young

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)