

THE MIDWIFE.

THOUSANDS MORE NURSES AND MIDWIVES.

Full-time nursing and midwifery staffs in hospitals in England and Wales, now part of the National Health Service, have risen by 2,000 within 12 months. In June last the total, including those trained and in training, was 117,741, compared with 115,529 a year earlier.

Part-time nursing and midwifery hospital staffs over the same period rose by nearly 7,000—from 10,700 to 17,380.

On the domestic side, full-time staff went up from about 96,500 in June, 1947, to 99,700 in June, 1948, and part-time from 18,000 to 21,575. This general increase in hospital staffing has not only made it possible to shorten the nurses' hours in many hospitals and institute a 96-hour fortnight, but to reopen beds closed through lack of staff.

In mid-1947 there were about 63,000 beds out of action for this reason, but by June this year nearly 6,000 of them were again available for patients.

The point has now been reached when every addition to the hospital nursing and midwifery staffs means either the opening of more beds or the improvement of working hours and conditions, or sometimes both.

A CENTURY OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

"A Century of Public Health" is the title of a modest brochure which is being circulated abroad by the organisers of the Public Health and Municipal Engineering Congress and Exhibition to be held at Olympia, London, from November 15th to 20th. In two thousand words the brochure traces progress from the first Public Health Act in 1848 and Edwin Chadwick, "Father of our Public Health system," to the present time—year of the Labour Government's new National Health Act.

"For many years now," the writer states, "behind the public conscience there has been the forceful backing of engineers and industrialists eager to direct their knowledge, skill and resources to the improvement of the public health and municipal engineering services. Nowhere else in the world was the ground more favourable for development; here was a highly industrialised country well in the van of progress in civil, mechanical and electrical engineering and well equipped to adapt itself to the needs of the crowded communities which industry itself was creating."

It is ten years since the last Public Health Congress and Exhibition was held in Britain, and the industries which

exist largely—and some wholly—for the public health and municipal engineering services will have many new developments to show at Olympia.

Organiser of the exhibition is Mr. J. Pattison, 68, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

PRINCESS TSAHAI MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FUND.

MADAM,—I crave the hospitality of your valuable Magazine to announce a Bazaar in aid of the Princess Tshahi Memorial Hospital, in Addis Ababa, and some Exhibitions of great interest, which are to be held at Seymour Hall, Seymour Place, W.1, on Monday, November 8th, 1948, from 2 to 5 p.m., and on Tuesday, November 9th, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The speakers on the first day will be, Dr. Somerville Hastings, M.P., the Baroness Layton of Danehill, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Hon. Secretary of the Memorial Hospital Council. The second day, Canon J. A. Douglas, Miss Isabel Fry, Brigadier G. S. Parkinson of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and Miss Pankhurst.

Exhibitions of Children's Art will be provided by the Royal Drawing Society and the Ethiopian Ministry of Education; Photographs by the Royal Photographic Society; Ethiopian Arts, Crafts and Industries by the Ethiopian Government. Dancing by the Paula Noakes and Vyner Gomez, Euphan Maclaren and the Arts Educational Schools, will take place in the Bazaar.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST, Hon. Secretary.

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HOSPITAL VACANCIES—(Continued from Back Cover.)

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