

pears, at Athens figs; in Arcadia and most other parts of Greece acorns were eaten. Bread was made out of meal, salt, and water, to which some added oil. Barley meal was much used, while a dish made of rice, cheese, and eggs and honey wrapped in fig leaves was greatly esteemed. Another favourite dish was a mixture of cheese, garlic, and eggs, and the poor in Athens used much garlic and onion. The first animal used as food was, it is said, the swine. It was unlawful to eat oxen which were useful to man, and they were not killed for food until a later period. The Greeks considered it wrong to eat young animals as tending to destroy the species, and because they had scarcely tasted of the joys of life. Roast meat was preferred to boiled, and the Greeks loved fish, such as eels, dressed with beets. Their sweets consisted of apples, almonds, nuts, figs, and peaches. The Spartans, whose diet was sparing, ate meat, hares, partridges, and fish. The heroes often dressed their own food, and sometimes the heralds employed in civil and military duties performed many of the holy rites at sacrifices, serving as cooks.

Part of the education of the Spartan boys, after the Spartans commenced to drink wine, was to be occasionally shown a drunken slave at their banquets. This was done in order to disgust them and prevent them from drinking to excess themselves.

The few facts here brought together may serve to prove that a perfection which was attained hundred of years before Christ should not be unattainable by a nation such as ours, whose sons are imbued with courage, ambition, and endurance, if only given the means of improving their physique. This will only be done by teaching; by giving them some ideal to live up to, and by making them feel that the nation is one great living body of whom they are a part.

### CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

WE have received the following report from the Secretary of the Central Midwives Board:

At a meeting of the Central Midwives Board, Dr. F. H. Champneys in the chair, held at the Board Room, 6, Suffolk Street, S.W., on December 17th, 1903, the following business was transacted:

1. The report of the Standing Committee as to the principles on which the Board should act in dealing with applications for recognition under Section C of the rules as approved institutions, or as approved teachers, was considered, amended, and adopted.

2. In accordance with the recommendations of the Committee the Board resolved:

(1) To accept the signature to Form V of registered medical practitioners who are

- (A) Past or present holders of appointments to lying-in institutions or maternity charities; or
- (B) Past or present examiners in midwifery to any examining Board for a medical qualification; or
- (C) Lecturers on midwifery to institutions where pupil midwives or students of medicine are instructed.

(2) To consider individually, and on their own merits, applications from registered medical practitioners not coming within the above categories.

(3) To postpone for the present all applications from teachers in Poor-law institutions, in view of the fact that almost all midwives exercising their calling in such institutions are (at the express instance of the Local Government Board) specifically exempted from the operation of Section E of the rules.

3. The following applications for recognition as approved institutions under Section c of the rules were granted:

- Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital.
- Liverpool Ladies' Charity and Lying-in Hospital.
- Manchester Southern and Maternity Hospital.
- British Lying-in Hospital.
- Newcastle-on-Tyne Lying-in Hospital.
- General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, Lambeth.
- Glasgow Maternity Hospital.
- Dundee Maternity Hospital.
- District Nursing Association, St. James's Square, Cheltenham.
- Maternity Charity and District Nurses' Home, Plaistow.

4. The Board resolved that a slip be appended to Form III (Certificate of Attendance on Cases) as follows:

NOTE.—Although a case of labour may be used for the instruction of more than one pupil, the case can only be counted to the credit of the one pupil to whom the actual delivery is entrusted.

5. After consideration of applications for certificates the names of 270 women were passed under Section II of the Act, and ordered for entry on the Roll. Of this total, 65 claimed as holding the certificate of the Obstetrical Society of London,

5 that of the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin; 1 that of the Coombe Lying-in Hospital, Dublin; 1 that of the Liverpool Lying-in Hospital; 8 that of St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester; 2 that of the Salvation Army Maternity Home; and 138 were admitted as having been in bona-fide practice for one year prior to July 31st, 1902.

[Form V is a certificate to the effect that the candidate has attended, to the satisfaction of the person signing, it a course of instruction given by him on the subjects enumerated in the regulations.]

### BATTLE OF THE CLUBS.

OLDBURY.

WE are informed that seven medical men residing at Oldbury, Langley, about five miles from Birmingham, and surrounding districts, have been summarily dismissed from their posts as surgeons to the alkali works of Messrs. Chance and Hunt. It appears that the men have been paying 13s. per annum each for the medical services afforded, each man being free to choose yearly whichever medical man he preferred, the practitioner being paid according to the number of men on his list.

About 700 persons are employed at the works, each of whom is required to contribute 3d. a week. Instead, however, of receiving 13s. per annum for every man on his list, the authorities mulct the medical officer in the sum of 1s. 6d. per member, and pay over only 11s. 6d. It will be readily reckoned that 1s. 6d. from every subscription means an aggregate of upwards of £52. These deductions have been made for many years for the purpose of forming a "dispensary fund" from which the cost of supplying trusses and other small surgical appliances was defrayed. It is obvious that this amount could not be required for the purpose in any one year, and it is now asserted that from the accumulated funds the authorities have been in the habit of sending subscriptions "from the men, etc." to convalescent homes and similar charitable institutions—whereas, if the statement be correct, the amount has been taken, not from the men, but from the seven medical officers. Even if they had received the full amount earned the medical men would have been wretchedly underpaid. For the 13s. per annum paid by each employed the medical officers are required to attend, not only the employé himself, be he the chief foreman, works' manager or merely a day labourer, but the whole of his family, whether they be young or grown up (the fact that they earn their living at other factories or offices being no bar to their right to his services), the wife in her confinement, and to vaccinate.

As though all this was not bad enough, it has become the custom for subcontractors and their employés to contribute to the medical fund, and demand the same rights and privileges as the bona-fide workmen at the factory. Recently the medical men held a meeting, and asked "either to have the full 13s. paid by the men, or else a fee of 10s. 6d. allowed for confinements."

Mr. Chance and his committee rudely replied that they would not allow either alternative, that the medical men were already sufficiently well paid and that no alteration in the rate of payment would be considered. The committee desired the secretary to say still further that "in future only four of the doctors would be allowed to fill the post; the three lowest at the election would be compelled to retire." A further threat was added to the effect that if the medical men did not like it they would all be dismissed, and one or two outside medical men would be kept to do the work.

Since many of the men live two and three miles from the alkali works, in different directions, it is not easy to understand how "one or two" men could cope with the work of attending upon 700 families.

The medical men, of course, refused the terms, and the following circular has been posted at the works. It will be noticed how the onus is placed upon the medical men:

Oldbury Alkali Works Provident Society, Dispensary Branch.

December 24th, 1903.

In consequence of the doctors having declined the offer and terms of the committee for their services next year this branch of the society will cease on Thursday next, December 31st, 1903, and after that date the deduction from the wages will cease,

(Signed) A. M. CHANCE, Chairman.  
G. A. COTTRELL, Secretary.

Then follow the names of the committee.

We sincerely trust that no medical man with an atom of self-respect will apply for the post should it be advertised.