

Midwives Act—Berlin

(Notes from "Lancet," May 26, 1923.)

By a law recently passed, training of midwives is to extend over 18 months—practical and theoretical—at a public midwifery hospital.

Must attend 50 parturitions. Prior to admission to training-school must have certificate of health and good conduct and be between 20 and 30 years of age.

After practical must pass theoretical examination.

Practical training includes diagnosis of abnormal cases and at examination must prove on case or anatomical model.

After qualification may not live where she likes. The law provides for distribution of midwives according to the wants of the population. In places where they refuse to settle the Government may appoint district midwives at a fixed salary. The law provides for a scale of fees according to the wealth of the mother. A minimum income is guaranteed to midwives, balance of fees not recovered from patients to be covered by the Government.

Midwife must summon medical man in every abnormal case, and if mother and family refuse she must decline all responsibility and ask for a certificate stating refusal and report to the district m.o.

Cases of puerperal fever must be notified to the D.M.O., and midwife refrain from other cases.

Must keep a register, which will be checked by the D.M.O., who is empowered to examine the midwife's knowledge every second year.

She must attend a three weeks' post-graduate course every five years at a provincial training-school. If she refrains from doing so without reasonable cause, qualifications may be withdrawn; also for grave misdemeanour and unprofessional conduct.

The law provides for District Midwifery Boards.

Most important alterations by new law are the creation of a definitely professional body of midwives and the granting of a minimum income.

The Rockefeller Gift to Great Britain

The great additions to University College and University College Hospital, of London, England, made possible through the munificence of John D. Rockefeller were inaugurated on May 31, with picturesque ceremony, by the King and Queen. The foundation-stones of the new Maternity Hospital and the Nurses' Home were formally laid, and the King declared the new anatomy building opened.

The Maternity Hospital and Nurses' Home will face each other across the street, and advantage of this was taken to erect a marquee over that thoroughfare and to turn it into a local court. The stones to be laid stood on either side, and when the stands were filled, largely with physicians in scarlet gowns and nurses in gray uniforms and spotless caps and aprons, the choir of St. Pancras Church filed

in, followed by the band of the Grenadiers in all their glory of gold and scarlet.

In his speech, King George made special reference to the "magnificent generosity" of the gift of £1,200,000 to University College in a single gift from a single benefactor, and spoke of the significance it gained in coming from an American citizen to the people of Great Britain and the British Empire.

On the Maternity Hospital all passers-by will read:

"Built by the generosity of the Rockefeller Foundation, U.S.A."

The record on the Nurses' Home will be:

"Gift of the Rockefeller Foundation, U.S.A."

—From "The Public Health Nurse."