

Association for Improvements in the Maternity Services (AIMS).
(Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Pregnant Women 1960)
Mrs. S. Willington, 1 Batchwood Gardens, St. Albans
HERTFORDSHIRE

A I M S - Newsletter 1.

Dear

The response has been good and the number of members is now () and they are from all over Britain - we have midwives, doctors and obstetricians, wives and mothers, and enquiries from matrons, newspapers and other organisations.

Some suspicious people want to know whom I am. I am 28 and have a girl of 3 and a boy of 1½. I am a potter married to a teacher.

The usual obstacle has reared its ugly head - money. We need money for stamps, paper and envelopes. At the moment you are a member of AIMS merely by associating yourself with us. If anyone has any ideas about raising money or can think of a rich patron I shall be very glad to hear about it. Please send me postage stamps when you write.

Some people have suggested that we should wear a badge - do you agree that this would be a good idea?

I hope that we can organise ourselves into "areas" under an "area organiser" (any volunteers?) who will form pressure groups to lobby M.Ps. and "chase" their Regional Hospital Boards. I want to compile a blacklist of maternity units that are known to fall short of the standards required by AIMS (this list would of course be cross-checked for accuracy).

Many of your letters so far are very interesting. I will therefore send you quite soon a Questionnaire which I hope you will fill in good-naturedly even if you have already given me the answers to some of the questions on it.

You will be pleased to know AIMS has the blessing of Professor Norman Morris (of Charing Cross Hospital) who is being very helpful.

An experimental Maternity Unit is to be built at Corby (Nr. Kettering, Northants) and should be finished in about two years time.

If an informal meeting were to be held in London in June or July for those able to get there - would you come? (A kind member has a large flat she will lend us). Would morning, afternoon, evening or weekend be the most suitable?

It is important to keep writing to the papers, BBC and other people even if you do not expect your letter to be published. If you do not wish your name to be published (some mothers say their local hospital might "take it out of them" if this happens and they need to go there again), then use a pen-name ("Mother of three" etc.) and give your full name and address underneath stating clearly that it is not for publication.

Light your candles and help to dispel this dark out of date treatment - candles are used on people's birthdays - light yours now to ensure that they commemorate a happy event.

Can you get five new members?

Yours sincerely,