

SAVE THE MOTHERS

Save the Mothers

*A Plea for Measures to Prevent the
Annual Loss of about 3000 Child-
bearing Mothers and 20,000 Infant
Lives in England and Wales and a
Similar Grievous Wastage in other
Countries*

by

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST

19



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PREFACE

THIS book is an urgent plea for a universal, free Maternity Service, and an earnest effort to make plain the great need of mothers and the grievous hardships, risks and suffering encountered by them in pregnancy and childbirth.

For important views on the situation in this country I am indebted to notable compatriots whose names appear in the text. For opinions and information respecting the position abroad I have to thank Professor van Rooy, director of the famous University Maternity Hospital, Amsterdam; my friend Betzy Kjelsberg of the Norwegian Women's Council, and the director of the Clinic of Brandenburg, as well as many foreign Governments and British Consuls and the Governments of the British Dominions and their agents here, who have courteously supplied me with important documents.

The burden of life is too often too hard for the mothers; their need calls to-day for great nation-wide agitations, patient, intensive local effort, individual zeal and care; it makes its appeal to each one of us.

Society has indeed no duty more essential than to provide first-class aid for the creators of its life, who bear in painful travail, and with an enormity of unnecessary agony, those infant new-comers to our world, who, groping unsteadily after primæval experiences, yet hold within them, if they come scathless through the birth, potentialities of achievement beyond our ken.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST

“UNTIL it is realised that much of the poignant sorrow and suffering caused by misadventure at the time of childbirth is not inevitable and can be lessened, we shall be slow to find the time, money, effort and good will needed to persuade all concerned to combine to overcome the practical difficulties of the problem.”

DAME JANET CAMPBELL, D.B.E., M.D., M.S.
*Senior Medical Officer for Maternity
and Child Welfare, Ministry of Health*

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