

all the aids and appliances required in Obstetric Nursing—and it is surprising how many things we want to do our duty well—and these lists were very useful to Nurses when they began work, especially in country cases and foreign engagements, where a Nurse has to lay in “stores,” if we may so call them, so as to be prepared for emergencies; and a Nurse who has not the faculty of thoughtful preparedness in her, fails in a very important part of her calling.

In looking over my teaching notes the other day, and remembering the earnestness that this attention to detail gave to our part of Nursing work, and how greatly it enhanced the value of a Nurse, it occurred to me that a series of papers on the subject of Obstetric Nursing would not be altogether inopportune in the pages of our journal, especially as the importance of my subject is every day becoming more fully acknowledged. I purpose to divide my subject into two parts—Maternal and Infantile—discussing each separately, taking in each division first those cases that are perfectly normal as to their Nursing aspects, and then considering those that are not, and for that reason require special duties on the part of the Nurse. I may also touch upon some of the fallacies, often absurd, but always mischievous, that obstruct the path of good and safe Nursing; and I may have a few words to say to Nurses engaged in Midwifery Nursing, pointing out the sort of women, and the kind of qualities, in my judgment, best suited to it.

There is one point about Midwifery Nursing that is, I think, apt to be overlooked, and that is its supreme importance to the patient herself, concerning as it does a frail little life infinitely dear to her. All other illnesses are unmixed evils, and leave nothing but evil behind them. No woman is the better for having a fever, and certainly never wishes to have another. With maternity it is not so. Many authorities of the greatest weight are distinctly of opinion that child-bearing and lactation are conducive to the health and longevity of women, and it seems only a matter of common sense that they should know something about the safe and careful nursing of themselves and infants. A little knowledge is *not* a dangerous thing in this direction, and would distinctly help on the efforts of those to whose care they were entrusted.

Married women attend lectures upon diseases they may never have at all, and certainly do not wish to have twice; and they watch poultices being prepared, and plaisters spread, with due awe and admiration, but it is hard to see that there is anything to excite their affections in these useful manipulations. May we not then fairly assume that the nursing, attentions, and tender

care required by the “little stranger,” whose advent awakens a thousand loving thoughts in their maternal hearts, are not less worthy of their regard? And in this respect a perusal of my forthcoming papers may be not altogether uninteresting or unprofitable to motherhood.

NURSING ECHOES.

*** Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.*

A GREAT many letters of inquiry are addressed to me upon the subject of Registration. Nurses and Midwives alike seem fully alive to the importance of such a measure to themselves, but do not seem to understand who is going to open the Registers, nor what steps will be necessary to obtain enrolment thereon. I am, therefore, asked to refer all inquirers, past, present, or future, to a note which will for a time appear amongst the Answers to Correspondents, to the effect that it is understood that the British Nurses' Association is now organising a system of Registration, and that all information on the subject can probably be obtained by writing to the Secretary, at the offices of the Association, 8, Oxford Circus Avenue, Oxford Street, London, W., always enclosing a stamped and addressed envelope for a reply. The scheme of the Association has not yet been made public, so we know no more on the subject than our readers.

Apropos of my recent remarks upon Convalescent Homes for Nurses, a correspondent writes:—“Some of your readers may be glad to know of a real ‘Home’ in every sense of the word. The Farm House, Little Oddyns, Horsted Keynes, Sussex, was opened by Miss H. Mason in 1886 in the hope of affording in a quiet country place a pleasant holiday and time of rest to some of the many people who cannot, or will not, go to large public institutions. During the past three years, more than two hundred have been thus received. But the outlay has exceeded the receipts by a considerable sum each year. Larger premises have, therefore, lately been secured in ‘The Hawthornes,’ Framfield, near Uckfield, an altogether better and more convenient house, and it is now hoped that the Home will become quite self-supporting. Return tickets from London available for a month can be obtained at a reduced fare of 5s. 3d., and the charge for board and lodging is 12s. 6d. a week. For vacancies, &c., applications, enclosing a stamped envelope, should be made to Miss Mason at the new Home.”

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