

the widow of a local carpet manufacturer, had undertaken to bear the cost of erecting an additional ward in memory of her late husband.

Last week Mrs. John Dyer opened a new children's ward, to accommodate 20 patients, at the Swansea General Hospital. It has been renovated, equipped, and furnished through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. John Dyer, of Richmond Villas. Mrs. Dyer opened the ward by carrying in the first patient.

By the will of Mr. James Lawrie, of Bellefield, Lanark, a sum of £30,000 is left to London Hospitals, two-thirds to the Royal Scottish Hospital, London, and the remaining third to the Royal Caledonian Asylum, London.

### Items of Interest.

For those who dread the dentist's chair, even under the protection of laughing gas, a description is given by Dr. d'Arsonval, at the Academy of Sciences, in Paris, of a new use for electricity as an anæsthetic. The tooth must first be covered with a plastic substance, which the dentists use for taking moulds of the teeth. Then comes a layer of plumbago, and the whole is coated with a paste made with salt water. One electric pole is then attached to the tooth, and the other is held in the hand by the patient. The current is turned on, and produces the most complete local anæsthesia, lasting ten minutes.

An interesting account was also read of Gautier's experiments at the Constantine Hospital with the subcutaneous injection of methylarsenate of soda for malaria. A few centigrammes, injected daily, entirely checked the disease in several cases where strong doses of quinine had proved powerless after as much as two months' treatment.

The *Indian Medical Gazette* understands that Dr. Rost, of the Indian Medical Service, has successfully cultivated the cancer organism on a solid medium at the Rangoon Hospital, the injection of the culture conveying the fatal disease to a guinea pig.

In his speech to the shareholders of Bovril, Limited, at the Annual Meeting, the chairman, Viscount Duncannon, V.C., spoke in encouraging terms of the position of the company, asserting that it closed its fifth year of existence with the most hopeful outlook.

We have much pleasure in directing attention to a set of weight charts published by Messrs S. Maw Son and Sons, 7—12, Aldersgate St, E.C., as designed by Mr. Kelf of St. Saviour's Infirmary, East Dulwich. The charts provide for chronicling the weight of patients up to 14 stone. As the gain or loss of weight is an important feature in connection with certain diseases, and an accurate account of the patient's condition in this respect is therefore of moment, these charts will doubtless find favour with the authorities of many hospitals. The cost is 18s. od. per thousand, or in smaller quantities they may be had at a slightly proportionate increase.

### Professional Review.

#### PRACTICE OF MIDWIFERY FOR NURSES.

We have received a copy of "A Short Practice of Midwifery for Nurses," by Dr. Henry Jellett, B.A., B.Ch., F.R.C.P.I., L.M., ex-Assistant Master at the Rotunda Hospital, University Examiner in Midwifery and Gynæcology, Dublin University, and additional examiner in Midwifery to the Royal College of Physicians, Ireland. It is published by Messrs. J. and A. Churchill, 7, Great Marlborough Street, London, W., price 6s., and should find a place in every nurse's bookshelf.

The book, which embodies the treatment adopted in the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, appears to us admirably written. Without overburdening nurses with technical details which there is no need for them to know, it yet gives them a clear description of the duties which they may be called upon to perform. The author explains in the preface the principle which has guided him in writing it. "Causes must be explained, and lines of treatment must be given which it is not for a nurse to carry out, but which it is necessary for her to understand. In every case which is not one of normal labour, the first duty of a nurse is to send for medical assistance. Her second duty is to afford all required treatment to her patient until the assistance arrives for which she has sent. Her third duty is to give intelligent aid to the medical man when he arrives. She cannot discharge the last two of these duties if her knowledge is limited to the bare essentials which will enable her to deliver a case of normal labour. Consequently she must have placed before her a sufficient amount of information on almost all subjects relating to the management of a pregnant, parturient, and puerperal woman. She must, however, take care that the knowledge which she has obtained for a necessary and lawful purpose is not used in a reverse manner, and does not lead her to assume responsibilities which she is unable to discharge. If she will remember that her work in life is to be a good nurse, and not a bad doctor, the temptation to assume such responsibilities will not present itself to her."

One word as to the class of workers for whom the book is intended. It appears that the author uses the word nurse as synonymous with midwife. This it certainly ought to be; but, unfortunately, is not at present. All trained nurses by no means have experience in midwifery, and many would be utterly at sea if required to conduct a case of normal labour. On the other hand, many midwives are not trained nurses, though after a few months' special training in midwifery, women are apt to assume that they are competent to nurse any case of medical and surgical disease. To this trained nurses naturally and rightly object. Until, therefore, the profession of nursing follows that of medicine, and enforces a triple qualification in medical, surgical, and obstetric nursing, it appears important that the difference between nurses and midwives should be clearly defined.

It may be because the author is only accustomed to deal with the midwife specialist that he expresses the belief that he fears it will "be impossible for a nurse who has not studied anatomy to follow a description of the foetal circulation," of which he appends a description "for the benefit of the few nurses who may have done so." Surely all trained nurses know their circulation, and if so there is no special difficulty in comprehending the foetal circulation.

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