

of chloroform and so oblivious to what is taking place.

The management of a case of midwifery can only be safely undertaken by one who is acquainted with the anatomy of the pelvis, with the mechanism of labour, the proper methods of controlling hæmorrhage under different conditions, the right procedure in the various emergencies which may at any time arise, and the paramount importance of surgical cleanliness in every detail. Of no one of these things has the average friendly neighbour even a rudimentary idea.

Short of conducting the case, the duties of the attendant include, the preparation of the patient, the due arrangement of her clothing, the administration, if time permits, of a purgative enema; under instructions from the medical attendant, the fomentation of the perinæum that it may be supple and elastic when the child's head passes over it and so escape rupture, the proper reception of the child, so that the cord shall not be pulled upon, causing subsequently a protruding navel, attention to the eyes, cleansing them immediately after birth, the various methods of resuscitating an apparently still-born child, the proper administration of the first bath, and the subsequent dressing of the infant, and many more things besides. Does having "had seven" qualify for all, or indeed, any, of these things? In practice it will be found that the friendly neighbour is for the most part willing to continue the traditions of her class to administer to the mother "a sup of gin," and to the newly born infant a bolus of butter and sugar, and a portion of the mother's gruel, very often half raw, after which she rests content on her laurels.

But the belief in the qualification of child-bearing for adjudicating upon the professional aspect of midwifery, is not confined to the working class. It is held even by our legislators, witness their well meant efforts in the formation of the Midwives Board, in providing that one of the members appointed by the Lord President of the Privy Council "shall be a woman."

This is good as far as it goes, but it is not enough, any more than the fact of being of the male sex qualifies a man for a seat on the General Medical Council, or any other professional body. What is needed is distinction in the special profession concerned, and a Midwives' Board, to be effective, should accord a majority of seats to midwives. If it is formed without provision being made for even one midwife upon it, surely its title is a misnomer.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR



The King and Queen have been pleased to become patrons of the Italian Hospital, Queen's Square.

The Queen has given her patronage to the Royal Berkshire Hospital at Reading, of which her late Majesty was patron.

Her Majesty the Queen has also been pleased to allow two beds in the Free Home for the Dying, 29, North Side, Clapham Common, of which she is the patroness, to be named after her.

The committee of the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl, have received an intimation that the Prince and Princess of Wales will, on the occasion of their visit to North Wales in May, also stop at Rhyl and open the new wing of the Royal Alexandra Hospital, the foundation-stone of which was laid in 1894 by Queen Alexandra.

Mr. Robert Irvine, of Royston, whose death took place last week, has bequeathed £30,000 to Edinburgh University to found a professorship of bacteriology. Mr. Irvine was a native of Edinburgh.

Mrs. Jane Boyes, who obtained her medical degree after study at Queen Margaret College, Edinburgh, has been appointed medical officer for the Island of Coll, Argyllshire, in succession to the late Dr. William Henry Smith. The appointment is the first of the kind in the Highlands.

Mr. Francis Thomas Freeman, of 152, Abbey Road, has bequeathed £120,000 to charities. Amongst the institutions which will benefit by his will are the National Hospital for Epileptics, the Margate Infirmary, the Surgical Aid Society, the Deaf and Dumb Asylum in the Old Kent Road, the Home for the Blind in Alma Square, St. John's Wood, St. Mary's Hospital, University College Hospital, Guy's Hospital, and the West London Hospital, and other such charitable institutions as the trustees may select in such proportions as they may think proper.

A despatch from Yokohama states that eight specially-trained Japanese doctors have been engaged for the purpose of combating the plague at Hong Kong.

The report of the Massachusetts State Sanatorium, where the open air treatment is used for consumption, shows that it was efficacious in 67 per cent. of the cases treated in 1901. There was only one death among 399 patients in the year. The average age of the patients was 28.

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