

The Hospital World.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITAL.

The courses of training both in midwifery and monthly nursing at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Marylebone Road, have, during the tenure of office of the present Matron, Miss M. F. McCord, been considerably improved, and as both the indoor and outdoor practice is extensive the experience to be gained in these special branches of work at the above hospital is excellent. The hospital has seventy beds for the reception of in-patients. There are three floors of wards, most of the wards having two, though some have four and five beds. On each floor is a sister and staff nurse in the lying-in wards, under whom the pupils work, each pupil having to look after two patients. On each floor also are labour wards which are in charge of a sister. Everything here is arranged for the orderly and convenient conduct of labour cases. Three pupils are, under the sister, on duty in these wards, all of whom are present at the confinements, and to each special duties are allotted. The pupil who attends to the bathing of the patient on admission, and dresses her in clothes supplied by the hospital, is not permitted to examine the case, as the Matron wisely holds that these two duties should not be performed by the same person. After her bath the patient is clothed in a nightdress, which is rolled up round the waist, and a long full petticoat, made like a large apron, and fastened at the back, so that the necessary examinations can be made without exposing the patient and offending her delicacy and self-respect. Each labour ward, of which there are two on each floor, contains two beds. The bedsteads have been designed by the Matron, and the head and foot are removable; the iron bedstead has only two transverse bars, so that there is no opportunity for dust to accumulate. These bars support a wooden frame, by means of which the mattress is kept from sagging, and quite firm and even. The mattress has a washing cover, and is covered entirely with thin mackintosh. After each case the cover is removed and washed, and the mattresses are dealt with as indicated by circumstances.

In each labour ward screens are provided, and should two cases be going on at the same time, privacy is thus ensured. After her bath the patient is taken to the labour wards. An examination is then made. A specimen of urine is drawn off by catheter and tested for albumen, and a purgative enema is given. Each case is examined by a student and a pupil midwife. Abdominal palpation is taught and practised, though vaginal examinations are also made. The antiseptic in use in these wards is perchloride of mercury, which is coloured a deep purple colour; mercurialised vaseline is used for examining purposes. It is noteworthy that at the bottom of each basin of perchloride the strength is painted, and can be clearly read through the lotion.

In each labour ward are electric bells communicating with the sister's room and with that of the resident medical officer. With the latter there is also communication by means of a blow-pipe, so when the bell is rung it is a signal that he is urgently required.

When the labour is over, the patient is conveyed by means of a special trolley to one of the lying-in wards. On each floor is a ward kitchen, where gruel and all light meals are prepared for the patients.

The charts used in this hospital are very interesting, affording the most complete records for cases of this nature which we have so far seen. Special papers are provided for labour ward notes, while the chart used in the lying-in wards contains a record of the case throughout. These charts are subsequently bound.

It has been found by experience that all midwives should be experienced in monthly nursing, and all monthly nurses should know something of midwifery. The Committee therefore suggest to pupil midwives that they should take a five months' course, and strongly recommend them to enter for a course of not less than four months, in which case two months are given to monthly nursing.

The instruction given includes attendance on labour cases in the homes of out-patients, under supervision, and lectures and clinical instruction are given in the hospital by the visiting physicians, the resident medical officers, and the Matron, as well as by the superintendent of the out-patient department.

The pupil monthly nurses are required to enter for a period of twelve months' training, but are recommended to take sixteen weeks, in which case four weeks' instruction in midwifery is included.

The students in the hospital, of whom there are six at a time, are required to wear white linen coats while in the wards. These are provided for their use.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



It would be interesting to know what it cost the King in medical and nursing fees during his late serious illness; but curiosity is not likely to be gratified on this point for some time to come. For his four weeks' attendance at Sandringham prior to the recovery of the King from typhoid fever, in 1871, Sir William Gull received £10,000. Twice this amount, says the *Vegetarian*, was paid to Sir Morell Mackenzie for his treatment of the late Emperor Frederick. The doctors who attended Queen Victoria in her last illness received 2,000 guineas each; while Dr. Lapponi's skill in removing a cyst from the Pope's side a few

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