

The Midwife.

Our Schools of Midwifery.

THE MATERNITY HOSPITAL, ABERDEEN.

During a recent visit to the Granite City I was told with evident satisfaction "that it was impossible for a Jew to make a living in Aberdeen!" This, no doubt, is practical proof of the astuteness of the inhabitants, but may also have something to do with the reason why the hospitals of the city are by no means generously supported, and that at the Maternity Hospital, at least, the domestic and nursing staffs are quite the most hard worked of any hospital, into the conditions of which I have enquired for many years past, and it is certain that if the very high standard of cleanliness apparent in every corner of the institution is to be maintained, that the managers must encourage greater interest in the excellent work of the hospital, and obtain further financial support for it.

The Maternity Hospital, situated in Castle Terrace, Aberdeen, contains 16 beds, eight in each ward, and an isolation ward which during the present Matron's term of office, has never had to be used for an indoor patient, and the moment you enter the hall, you realise that cleanliness maintains supreme sway within. I should like to place it on record that owing to the courtesy of Miss Beedie I was shown every department, and that nowhere was there a speck of dust visible! Wards, passages, lavatories, stairs, walls, floors, cupboards, bedrooms, and domestic offices all were polished, and the pungent scent of turpentine, mixed with soap-suds (a delightful blend) gave the atmosphere a delicious freshness which should predominate in every hospital, especially where the "lying-in" are gathered together. Then to those who love "order," a master mind was seen to rule—there appeared to be everything for use, and everything had its own particular place, so that in this little school of midwifery the pupils are "trained" in the best sense of the word.

The nursing staff consists of the Matron-Sister, Miss Beedie—who, during her two years' residence has organised a wonderfully perfect system of teaching and nursing, in which she actively participates—two staff sisters, one ward maid *only*, and eight pupil midwives. Nearly 200 patients are admitted an-

nually, and there is an extensive district practice in connection with the hospital.

In the wards each patient has her own nurse, she also has her own screen, locker, and bedside table for dressings. Each nurse has her own set of utensils, given to her when the patient is warded, which she returns to the Sister when the patient goes out, and for the care and cleanliness of which she is responsible. These consist of a baby's bath, bed-pan, slipper, one large basin for lotion for the hands, one medium-sized, which fits over large one, and so covers lotion, to keep rubber tubing, glass vaginal, and glass rectal nozzles air-tight, one douche can, as all enemas are given with such syringes (no Higginson's syringe is now used), one small basin for eye lotion, powder box, and soap dish, everything used is constructed of glass or enamel. The very greatest care is given to keeping the bed and its surroundings surgically clean, walls and floors being constantly carbolicised. Incidentally I learned that every wall in the hospital is washed down once a fortnight. Each patient is treated as an operation case in the wards, and the nurses taught to nurse them as surgical cases.

A senior nurse has charge of the Labour Ward, and it is treated entirely like a theatre. Another has charge of the Cloak Room, where the very completely fitted district bags and baskets are kept; the Hall Table, where report slate is kept, and the carbolicising of the nail brushes. Two care for the Bath and Pan Rooms, etc.

One excellent rule is that nothing soiled is ever placed on the floor. As Miss Beedie remarked, "The floor is practically treated like an operating table." Thus the rules for the undressing and dressing of the patients upon admission and discharge are most elaborately detailed. Rules have been carefully drawn up for the pupils and domestic's instruction in every department, typed, and signed by the Matron, thus no one can plead ignorance if mistakes are made. The printed report sheets and books, every detail in which is supervised, and thus known to the Matron, bring every important item concerning the condition, treatment, and nursing of the patient and baby to her notice, and teach the most careful observation upon the part of the pupil. The North of Scotland is fortunate in possessing at this Maternity Hospital an excellent school in

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