

The Midwife.

Our Schools of Midwifery.

THE CITY OF LONDON LYING-IN HOSPITAL, CITY ROAD, E.C.

The newest of the London lying-in hospitals—newest, that is to say, as regards rebuilding, for it was originally founded in 1750, and has been doing good work amongst the poor married women of the district for the last 150 years—is the City of London Lying-In Hospital, which serves the dense neighbourhood surrounding the City Road. The chief impressions one receives of the new building are of harmony, light, cleanliness, sweetness, spaciousness, and comfort. On one of the sunny days with which September has closed, the building seemed flooded from top to bottom with wholesome, germ-destroying, life-giving sunshine.

The hospital has at present 50 beds, but it would be easy to add more if required, and still to allow plenty of cubic feet of air to each patient. On the ground floor is the Secretary's Office, the Board Room, various waiting rooms, and most comfortable quarters for the Resident Medical Officer, who is now to be appointed, consisting of bedroom, sitting room, and bathroom. So far the hospital has had no resident doctor. There is also a large room which, when the funds are forthcoming, it is proposed to furnish as a chapel.

The plan is followed here which is adopted at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, of having the labour wards, general wards, etc., in duplicate, and there are, therefore, two floors, each with a labour ward, containing two beds of a convenient height for delivery, and fitted with a flat plate, which can be wound up under the wire mattress, giving the same support as fracture boards. The labour room on a floor is used until the beds in the wards on that floor

are filled up. Then the one on the other floor is taken into use, and the wards on the first floor gradually emptied so that it can be thoroughly cleaned before a fresh batch of patients is taken in. The beds in the wards are of the Lawson Tait pattern, and beside each is the cot in which the baby lies snugly. As little furniture as possible is allowed in the wards, which, however, are very comfortable. A comparatively new material, terrano, is used for the floors and corridors. It is deep terra cotta in colour, and when laid is of the consistency of mortar, being spread with a trowel. It has a smooth, even, and uncracked surface, but (is it a disadvantage or not?) shows every spot of water, and every mark made upon it, and so is difficult to keep clean. All the linen, etc., used in the wards is sent down a shoot, and received into a trolley below, from whence it is passed through the disinfectant in the basement. In the basement also are the great engines, in duplicate (so that one may be ready for use if the other goes wrong), by means of which the heating of the building and the hot water supply are maintained; also the incinerator for the destruction of refuse. The bath rooms for the babies on each floor are the most charming we have ever seen.



Miss A. M. FOX.

Matron City of London Lying-In Hospital.

we have ever seen. In the centre of the room is a large china stand having eight depressions, which form the baths; hot and cold water can be turned on into each of these by the nurse by means of their respective pedals, while the waste is regulated with the knee. It is, the Matron Miss A. M. Fox says, a pleasure to bath the babies in this room, and we do not wonder. Round the walls run the hot pipes which serve not only for heating purposes, but also for warming the bath towels.

There is a very complete isolation ward at the top of the building, with a kitchen, and a

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)