

hospital, besides those given by the Matron at Battersea in monthly nursing. Both the Clapham and Battersea students go round the wards of the hospital twice weekly with Dr. McCall, and receive definite clinical teaching. The inclusive fees for midwifery students are 26 guineas at the Clapham branch; and 23 guineas at Battersea. The hospital works in co-operation with ten Rescue Homes in South-West London, and the inmates in this case are brought to the hospital by their respective Matrons, and received back by them in due course with their children. A special feature in connection with the hospital is the Home close at hand for waiting and convalescent patients, either married or single, where, in the charge of a careful Matron, patients can be received and be under medical supervision without occupying the hospital beds until necessity arises, or being obliged to live in a hospital atmosphere.

The hospital, which has 36 beds, consists of three houses, which have been adapted to the necessities of the case. Such an arrangement always means additional work, but to build an up-to-date hospital on the other hand means money and plenty of it. How one wishes a big legacy, or gift for the purpose of re-building, might befall the Clapham Maternity Hospital. One is almost forced to the conclusion that the proverbial fairy god-mother must be a confirmed spinster, and quite ignorant of the needs of maternity hospitals, so chary does she seem of her gifts to these institutions, which are doing such splendid work throughout the country.

At Clapham, Dr. McCall is evidently a great believer in the virtues of fresh air, for the windows of the wards were set wide, and fresh air and sunshine filled them. A noticeable point in the hospital is the large nursery where all the babies are brought to be bathed, as in the accompanying picture which, by the kind permission of the Editor of the *Queen's Nurses' Magazine* we are able to publish. The nurses in their pretty pink uniforms seemed devoted to their little charges, with whom the bathing process was in full operation on our recent visit to the hospital. When the morning's work is over, and the babies safe in their cots by their mothers, the nursery windows are opened wide, and after a thorough airing all the babies are brought to it to sleep at night. One wonders why such an arrangement is not in force in all maternity hospitals, but it apparently has taken a woman's wit to discover that the mothers are better for a comparatively undisturbed night's rest.

The Hospital is carried on on total abstinence principles, no alcoholic beverages being used by anyone connected with it.

## First Impressions.

Maeterlinck, that most modern of mystics, speaks with awe of the vastness, importance, and insight of first impressions; we measure, judge, approve, or condemn instantaneously, almost involuntarily, but no less certainly. For the most part, we keep our deepest thoughts to ourselves, expressing only that which lies near the surface. It is always interesting, sometimes humiliating, sometimes entertaining, to know what others think of us. In *La Semaine Medicale* of the 25th of September, Dr. Bovis, of Reims, gives in a very sprightly letter his impressions of the London Maternity Hospitals. There is a kindly, characteristically French mocking vein throughout, combined with some real appreciation of our arrangements and methods. If we British are inclined to be scandalised at the absence of screens, the publicity of the examinations and the exposure of the patient in the Continental clinics, he is disposed to think our precautions a little exaggerated, though he owns that the making of "obstetrical sanctuaries" is not displeasing to him. He describes the conduct of labour as "exquisitely proper," and quotes someone who said: "*On n'y voit absolument rien, l'enfant a l'air de sortir de dessous les couvertures!*" but points out that the French method does not necessitate the use of so many sterilised sheets and coverings. He had the bad luck not to discover the babies at Queen Charlotte's, who were in bed with their mothers, and wondered if the isolation of the children in the "nursery"—a British institution originally—began at this early stage. Only at the City Road did he light upon cots. Did he but know they are to be found in all the other Maternities, though it must be confessed in many there is only one cot between two babies! He thinks our training of midwives good, but is under the impression that only fully trained nurses can take the course; he would be horrified to know that it is possible in some districts to become a certified midwife in three months, the minimum course in France being two years! He shrugs his shoulders over the little manuals, which must perforce content such students. Dr. Bovis was astonished to see in the street so few of the compatriots of Sir Walter Scott, who need "the longer gown and wider girdle," and supposes that the so-called "confinement" begins some months before the arrival of the baby.

M.O.H.

We hope that the English method of delivery may become general.

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