

and separate bedrooms, and a bath room with plenty of hot water. Three resident midwives and five pupils live in this home. The class then proceeded to the Preliminary Training Home, where tea was kindly provided and much appreciated. Sister Allen presided at the tea table.

The Preliminary Home has thoroughly justified its existence, and it is the proud record of the hospital that out of 119 candidates presented in the past year at the examination of the Central Midwives Board only 4 failed. The failures were thus 3 per cent. as compared with a percentage of 19.5 for the entire country.

#### CLAPHAM MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

The annual meeting of the Clapham Maternity Hospital was held on June 23rd, Mrs. Fawcett presiding. The medical women, wearing their degree hoods and gowns, made a noticeable group among the speakers. First among them was, of course, Dr. Annie McCall, also Dr. Sturge, Dr. Janet Turnbull, Dr. Catherine Ironside, Dr. Grainger Evans, and others. Miss Ritchie, Hon. Secretary, and Miss Alice Gregory.

Mrs. Fawcett likened the hospital to a lifeboat, and said that it stood for first-class attendance. There had been twenty new babies born there in the last three days. Though she had not a word to say against men, this work was essentially woman's work, and should command all the reverence and tenderness of which they were capable.

Miss Alice Gregory spoke of the preventive side of ante-natal care, which she said was sometimes considered dull, as one could not be sure of results.

Dr. McCall and Miss Ritchie had carried on as usual in spite of the war. The enormous food prices seem to encourage rather than depress them.

Dr. Catherine Ironside, who had just returned from Russia, whither she had escorted some refugees from Persia, gave some interesting incidents of her work in Persia.

Dr. Annie McCall said she believed in earning as you go along, and the earning side of the hospital was of great importance. But for all that, it had always to take the second place; the patients were always the first consideration. This sometimes was hard for the student nurse and doctor, but the best was always for the patient.

She asked that visitors would refrain from going into the wards, as there were so many new mothers. The glimpses they were allowed revealed cheerful, airy rooms, and the management are greatly to be congratulated on their fine new building.

The visitors were entertained to tea, and were well looked after by the genial Matron, Miss Ellen Chippindale, and her staff.

#### LECTURE ON VENEREAL DISEASE.

Mrs. Scharlieb gave the first lecture of her course of three on Venereal Disease at No. 1, Wimpole Street, W., on Wednesday evening, June 21st.

The chair was taken by Lady Sydenham, who gave an introductory address on Infant Mortality and some of its causes. Mrs. Scharlieb gave some interesting statistics of the wastage of infant life. Many infants, she said, were born dying! A number of slides relating to heredity, and illustrating the ravages of the *Spirochaete pallida* were thrown on the screen. This last had been described (said the lecturer) by Sir William Osler as the worm which never dies.

#### CLINICAL LECTURES TO MIDWIVES.

The first of the clinical lectures organised by the London County Council, was given by Dr. Potter, at the Kensington Infirmary, on Wednesday, June 21st, at 5 p.m., when a number of interested midwives availed themselves of the opportunity offered them. The lecturer emphasized the importance of sanitation, which, he reminded his class, was one of the subjects included in the curriculum of the Central Midwives Board. Because of strict attention to this essential matter, puerperal fever has decreased enormously in lying-in hospitals within the last thirty years, whereas, in private work it has remained stationary. Midwives in private practice were recommended to visit the home of the expectant mother and make enquiries about sanitation. Puerperal fever could be conveyed through the air, therefore pure fresh air was essential. The windows of the maternity wards at the Infirmary were kept open day and night in all weathers. A great point also was made of the necessity of keeping up the resisting power of the patient which was such a strong force against disease attacks. The mattresses and pillows supplied in the maternity wards of the Kensington Infirmary are of the most hygienic description—plus simplicity—namely, fragrant pine shavings enclosed in the ordinary bedding material. The pine shavings are burnt on the discharge of each patient and the material washed. Condy's Fluid is largely used because of the oxygen it contains. From general remarks, the lecturer proceeded to show and explain certain interesting cases. One woman was admitted with puffiness of the face and extremities; upon examination of the urine, it was found to contain albumen to the extent of one-third. She was a primipara. There had been no fits, but her history disclosed the fact that she had had nephritis some years ago. Free purges and iron was the treatment. Another was the case of a young woman who, when admitted was "blue in the face" owing to a bad condition of heart which pregnancy had aggravated. The child was in the dorso-posterior position. She was quickly delivered and was doing well. Dr. Potter explained the various sources of danger to the child in breech presentations. A case of phlegmasia dolens and another of puerperal septicaemia—both doing well—brought the interesting lecture to a close. The staff of the maternity wards have separate quarters and live quite apart from the Infirmary nurses.

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