

MR. BARNARDO AND SISTER CLARA.

WE have received the following from Mr. Barnardo :—

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

"Dear Madam,—Dr. Barnardo instructs me to express his regret that he is not able at once to reply, as he desires, to the correspondence which has recently appeared in your columns. He is just now, and will be for some little time, engaged from day to day in the Courts of Law, and will be therefore quite unable to give the close attention required to Miss Clara Jump's correspondence, and your *critique*. As soon as possible, however, you shall hear from him.

"I am, dear Madam,

"Yours faithfully,

"JOHN ODLING,

"18 to 26, Stepney Causeway, E. "Secretary.

"22nd November, 1889."

OUR CHRISTMAS DOUBLE NUMBER.

THE above Number will be ready on Monday, December 23, and will contain many new and special readable features, besides various illustrations, &c., and should altogether prove very interesting. Those of our readers who require *extra* copies for distribution among their friends at home or abroad, should send in their names and requirements with postal orders as early as possible, as we have *already* a large number bespoken, and we do not wish to be "out of print" to anyone if we can possibly avoid it, particularly as the price remains twopence—the ordinary charge.

To our advertisers—the larger ones—we must ask them to kindly let us have their orders not later than the 18th, as we cannot *guarantee* insertion after that date, as it should be remembered that in our last Christmas Number every available inch of space in our advertising columns was occupied, and that since that time the circulation of the *Nursing Record* has more than doubled itself.

CIVILITY is a quality upon the cultivation of which our happiness largely depends. It is among the most charming adornments of the human character. Nevertheless education and a measure of nobility are needed for appreciation of it. The depraved or boorish often mistake it for weakness. Where the mistake begets presumption, much discomfort is caused to those who make offer of civility; but in the event it is those who err in judgment who suffer. Where civility does not sway, powers less pleasant will.

OBSTETRIC NURSING.

— BY OBSTETRICA, M.B.N.A. —

PART I.—MATERNAL.

CHAPTER III.—DUTIES IMMEDIATELY AFTER DELIVERY.

SOME of my young professional readers have expressed a wish that I should give them my own reminiscences and experiences in the matter of obstetric binding, and I would ask pardon of my readers if I accede to their wish, on the ground of the extreme importance of the matters I am about to bring before their notice. For the purpose of illustration we will divide our subject into two divisions, which we will call *dorsal* and *lateral*, in reference to the *position* in which the patient lies when she is bound. I have recently pointed out to you the advantages of the recumbent posture, therefore need not repeat them. The disadvantages of the *lateral* position—that is, the patient lying on her *left* side—are easy to be understood. When the uterus ascends into the abdomen it inclines rather towards the right side of it. If the patient lie on her *left* side too much or too long immediately after delivery, the uterus, being still of great size and weight, keels over, as it were, to the left side of the abdomen, and gets dragged from the axis of the brim of the pelvis, thus favouring the accumulation of blood in the cavity of the uterus, which, unable to escape, leads to the formation of coagula; and these again put the uterine tissues on the stretch, distend the walls of the uterus, weaken its tonicity and contractile power, and in this way lead but too frequently to serious post-partum hæmorrhage, often neither *suspected* nor *discovered* till the patient shows unmistakable signs of distress from loss of blood.

Lying on her left side, and almost immediately after the expulsion of the placenta, the binder used to be applied—and not so many years ago neither—*over* the patient's skirts, and then tied in a firm knot behind her back; and sometimes a small pillow or shawl was placed under the binder, before it was fastened up, as a sort of compress. This remarkable mode of procedure used to find much favour in the eyes of the parish doctor, and hence it was that in my training days I came to see so much of it amongst the sick and helpless poor (though by no means confined to them). Whether that hard-worked gentleman was glad to clear off as soon as possible, or whether it was that he had an undeviating faith in the precautionary (?) measures he had adopted, it is not my place to say, my position being, at that time one of attentive observation only. Before leaving

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