

Professional Review.

"A SHORT PRACTICE OF MIDWIFERY FOR NURSES."

Nurses who need a reliable midwifery manual will be glad to have their attention directed to that by Dr. Henry Jellett, Examiner in Midwifery to the Royal College of Physicians, Ireland, and ex-Assistant Master of the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin. The book is published by Messrs. J. and A. Churchill, 7, Great Marlborough Street, London, W., the price being 6s. 6d. net. It is now in its second edition, and has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date by the author, and embodies the treatment adopted in the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, the fame of which, as a training-school in midwifery, has spread far. The book is profusely illustrated, the illustrations, which include several coloured plates, being valuable additions, intensifying the clearness of the text.

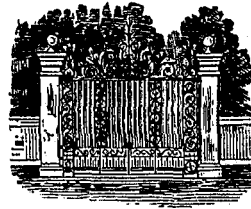
The author gratefully acknowledges his indebtedness to Miss Ramsden, the Lady Superintendent of the Rotunda Hospital, for the advice and assistance which she has so freely afforded in all parts of the book which touch on nursing, without which assistance he would, he says, have found it most difficult, or impossible, to have included much matter of great practical importance to nurses.

The first chapter on "Asepsis in Midwifery" is of great value, and admirably details the principles of asepsis, concerning which the author declares: "It is no exaggeration to say that the most essential knowledge in midwifery is the knowledge of asepsis." The need of surgical cleanliness has for many years past been impressed upon midwifery pupils, whether students or nurses, but it is only comparatively recently that the principles underlying the attainment of the aseptic condition have been clearly explained to nurses. This chapter merits the most careful study, and should be so thoroughly assimilated that the methods which it advocates should be put into practice instinctively. The most important forms of micro-organisms are described, special attention being paid to those which are pathogenic and pyogenic, and the measures which must be adopted to guard against the entrance of septic organisms into the vagina and uterus during labour. Thus, at the outset, the supreme importance of asepsis is clearly outlined and insisted on.

As it is now known that "if there were no such things as vaginal examinations, or as intra-vaginal or intra-uterine operations, a previously healthy patient, confined under proper hygienic circumstances, would never suffer from acute sepsis," such examinations are now practised far less frequently than formerly, one or two in the course of a labour being usually regarded as sufficient; on the other hand, much more use is made of the method of diagnosis by abdominal palpation, a method which is clearly explained in the book under consideration. For the above reason, also, the author unhesitatingly condemns the practice of routine prophylactic douching, before and after labour, as both unnecessary and dangerous. "At the Rotunda Hospital it has been abandoned for many years, and the excellent results that have been obtained show that benefit rather than harm has followed its abolition." After all, Mother Nature is a wise old nurse, and it is well to interfere with her methods as little as may be.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



In a recent debate, when the House of Commons went into Committee on Supply, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucester, Forest of Dean) moved that the sum suggested to complete the salaries and expenses of the Secretary of State for the Home Department should be reduced by £100. He referred to the fact that at an International Conference, at which this country was represented, all European countries except Great Britain, in a discussion on phosphorous necrosis, had said that white and yellow phosphorus were to be proscribed, and the question before the Government was whether they would continue to refuse conditional adherence to a unanimous agreement on this point. Nine countries voted for the resolution and two against—Great Britain and Sweden—and Sweden had since withdrawn her opposition.

The speaker also referred at some length to the subject of lead poisoning in the china and earthenware trades. The woman inspector, Miss Martindale, who after much pressure had been appointed by the Home Office as inspector in the Potteries District had now, he understood, been taken to Ireland, and all that was promised for the Potteries was the third of the time of a woman inspector who would not always be the same person. They must press for further concession to their views. He was sorry that, according to the report of the chief lady inspector, improvement in the health of the women and girls employed in the trade was not yet noticeable. Miss Martindale had recorded her regret that the manufacturers had not pursued more vigorously their quest of a glaze which had less dangerous results. In the speaker's opinion the only real solution of the question was the gradual abolition of the use of lead in this dangerous trade. He urged that the staff of women inspectors as a whole should be increased, more especially as the present able staff were more and more employed on special inquiries for the Home Office. While these were of first-class importance, they yet had the effect of taking the inspectors away from their regular duties.

Mr. Coghill (Stoke-on-Trent) said that in spite of the well-meant efforts of the Home Office two years ago the use of leadless glazes had broken down; they could not be used if ordinary profits were to be made and foreign competition withstood.

Mr. Tennant (Berwickshire) said that deaths from lead poisoning all over the country showed an increase over last year. He disagreed with his hon. friend that the production of leadless glaze had broken down from the economic standpoint, and said that there could be seen in the Palace of Westminster leadless glaze which would bear every comparison with that which was leaded. A practical suggestion made by the hon. member was that the Home Secretary might appoint a committee to enquire into the possibility of the satisfactory competition of leadless with leaded glaze.

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