

relieved to find that in my absence the house-surgeon had paid a visit and removed it.

(6) Another infant with the advent of breakfast, dinner, and tea, would cry "tea, tea," and when we tried to impress upon him that all the other little boys liked to be fed too, and that he must wait his turn, he weakly cried "tea," and as each child was helped he would more loudly call "tea" until his bellow "tea" could not be overlooked and so he would get his potatoes and mince, and with gleaming eyes, between each mouthful he would murmur "tea, tea, tea."

(7) And Baby Sally too, who could not say a word, and she was three years and five months old.

One morning, on quietly opening the door, a little baby voice said, "Morn, Sis!" It was Baby Sally's first attempt, and how proud I was of it, but not more so than she was herself.

And how we dreaded the visiting day, when the babies cried to go with their mothers, and how we wished they could see how happy their little ones were, although they loved and wanted their mothers.

(8) Some thoughtless person had told Llewie that he was not very good-looking, so I found the little child intently gazing in the looking-glass. "Well, dear," I began. He looked regretfully up, saying, "What a pity it is that I have such an ugly nose."

(9) Now I shall finish with a story of a little boy. He was afraid of a dog, and a lady passing him said, "Oh, don't be afraid. See, he is wagging his tail." "But it's no that end I'm feart for," he said.

And now just a word to young probationers. Don't influence the children by fear. It is bad for the children morally and physically. In one instance a probationer nurse threatened to put a little restless child "in the swallow." He did not seem to mind, and the probationer was astonished when it was suggested to her that it was unwise, and she declared: "Why? I did not mean anything."

That was quite true, but, nevertheless, such risky methods of gaining control too often do untold harm to the nerves of a child and destroy his faith, while they defeat the very purpose of our work. A. G. F.

At a meeting of the ratepayers at Okehampton the proposition to establish a cottage hospital was negatived in favour of the suggestion that a Town Nursing Association be founded. It is proposed to build a house for two nurses to work amongst the working classes, and it was agreed to ask Mr. Simmons, who had offered to give a site for the cottage hospital, to allow it to be used for the Nurses' Home.

Professional Review.

OBSTETRIC AND GYNECOLOGIC NURSING.

The subject of obstetric nursing is just now very much to the fore, and nurses are beginning to realise the importance of obtaining a thorough knowledge of this branch of their work. In days gone by, it was too often assumed that a nurse trained in medical and surgical nursing was competent to undertake the care of obstetric cases. Now it is rightly usual to require of them evidence of training in obstetric nursing before entrusting to them the care of such cases, and the consequence is that many nurses are found willing to pay the substantial fee asked by the special hospitals for training in this branch.

The present is therefore an opportune moment for drawing attention to the admirable handbook on obstetric and gynecologic nursing by Dr. Edward P. Davis, A.M., Professor of Obstetrics in the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, and in the Philadelphia Polyclinic, and which is published by W. B. Saunders & Co., 925 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, U.S.A. and 9, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London. The price is 8s. net.

Dr. Davis in his preface acknowledges the valuable help he has received in preparing the book from Miss Ellen V. Hayes, Chief Nurse of the Jefferson Maternity, and Miss Margaret Russell, who for seven years held this position, and other nurses on the staff, as well as Miss M. E. Smith, Chief Nurse of the Philadelphia Hospital.

The book is divided into two main parts, obstetric nursing and gynecologic nursing. The author defines obstetric nursing as "that branch of the art of caring for the sick which includes the nursing of the mother during pregnancy, parturition, and the puerperal state, and also the care of her child."

"It demands some knowledge of natural pregnancy and of the signs of accidents and diseases which may occur during pregnancy. It also requires knowledge and experience in the care of the patient during the labour and during her complete recovery, with the needs of her child. The obstetric nurse must also know how to help patient and doctor in the accidents and complications of labour, and has an important part to play in caring for mother and child in the disease which occasionally attack them during the puerperal period. As wounds occur during labour, and as operations must often be performed during or immediately after labour, a thorough knowledge and drill in asepsis and anti-sepsis are absolutely indispensable." Gynecologic nursing is defined as follows:—"This branch of nursing has to do with those conditions of ill-health in women in which the pelvic organs are concerned, but in which disease does not arise from pregnancy, parturition or the puerperal state." It will thus be seen that while obstetric nursing covers a wide field, the field that is covered by gynecologic nursing is a narrow one, as the majority of diseases among women are connected with pregnancy or parturition.

It is quite impossible in the limits of a short review to go into detail in regard to the mass of information contained in this book. It is arranged

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)