

## Nursing Echoes.

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The improvement in hospital construction for the benefit of the patients and nursing staff, is going on all the time, and the General Lying-in Hospital in York Road, Lambeth, which for nearly 150 years has been doing beneficent work for poor women, when skilled attention and nursing are essential to their welfare and that of their infants, has completed the addition of a new storey which will give the institution 12 additional beds, and secures greatly improved accommodation for nurses and servants, while an outside staircase and other alterations render the building more safe in case of fire.

Miss B. F. Hancock, the popular matron who is leaving the hospital and giving up her babies with sincerest regret, last Thursday gave an At Home or baby show at the Hospital. 170 mothers with their babies who had been during the past six months in the hospital were present; prizes were distributed in the form of infants' garments to those whose infants were adjudged to have been best kept during that period, after which interesting ceremony the guests were shown the structural improvements.

The new floor which is very light and airy is decorated in pale green, with dados of white tiles, the rooms are divided into well-furnished cubicles where a continued succession of pupil midwives and maternity nurses will find themselves very comfortable, the new bathrooms and lavatories being specially nice. A few steps brings one on to the roof, where high up the air is always fresh, and from which coign of vantage a stupendously fine view can be seen. West lies St. Thomas', the broad river, Westminster Abbey, and the Houses of Parliament. East one catches a glimpse of St. Paul's, the pinnacles of Guy's Hospital, and the Tower Bridge. Quite close seem the palatial hotels along the Embankment, and away South the setting sun lights up the Crystal Palace.

Much good work is done at the General Lying-in Hospital; ten pupil midwives can be trained and twenty pupil nurses, every three months, and the practical and theoretical teaching is excellent. Quite recently, fifty babies were born within its walls in three weeks, and the death rate is nil. Although rare complications on occasion arise—such as a case of ruptured uterus, which we found on the high road to recovery, with normal temperature on the tenth day.

Miss Hancock, whose management of the hospital has reflected so much credit on the training at Guy's, is to be succeeded as Matron at an early date by a lady, Miss Alice Park, from the same famous nursing school.

General disappointment was felt that Lord Camperdown's Committee of the House of Lords struck out the Ambulance Clauses of the London County Council's General Powers Bill, especially as Sir William Collins made out a very strong case in their favour. He told the Committee that there were in London 10,000 street casualties every year, and that the usual mode of conveying injured persons who were taken to hospitals was in a four-wheeled or hansom cab. Less than one third of the injured persons who were conveyed to hospitals arrived in ambulances.

In the House of Lords on Monday, Lord Monkswell moved the reinsertion in the Bill of Part 4, which gave the County Council power to establish an ambulance service, but he ultimately withdrew it, when Earl Beauchamp said on behalf of the Government that the Home Secretary held that the time had come when further steps might well be taken to improve the present condition of ambulances in London, and he intended therefore to summon a conference of the three bodies concerned, namely, the London County Council, the Metropolitan Police, and the Home Office to consider that object. It was not unlikely that a committee from these three authorities would be formed to formulate some scheme for dealing with the question as a whole, and that a thoroughly sound system would be introduced which would meet with the approval of everyone concerned.

There are voluntary associations, such as the St. John Ambulance Association, the Bischoffsheim Hospital Association, and the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps, which do admirable service, but they do not cover the whole ground, nor is London supplied on any concerted plan.

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