

The laying of the foundation-stone of the Central Home, which is in course of erection in Loveday Street, in connection with the Birmingham Lying-in-Charity, was recently performed by Mrs. Beale, president of the Ladies' Committee, in the presence of a large gathering. The recent Act for the training and registration of midwives made it imperative that provision should be made in the city for such training. In the new central home, pupil midwives will complete their training, and maternity cases will be received which are so serious as to need special treatment.

The annual visit of the Governors and the Management Committee of the Nottingham and Notts Convalescent Homes took place recently at Seathorne, Skegness. The new wing of the men's home, kindly given by Sir Charles Seely, was inspected and found entirely satisfactory.

The "Fairy Godmother" of the Kingston Victoria Hospital, Mrs. Green, has started a fund to raise £1,000 by the end of October, when she will add 50 per cent. to the amount collected. A Ladies' Auxiliary Association has been started to increase the financial support of the hospital. The Mayor of Kingston admitted that ladies were successful beggars. What we want to know is: Why should women collect funds for men to administer? It is high time that women were given positions of responsibility on hospital committees, and thus help to use the money given them to the best advantage.

Some gratifying statements with regard to the increasing interest working men in the district and neighbourhood are taking in the Swansea Hospital were made at the annual meeting of the Works Governors on Saturday last.

We are glad to learn that Mrs. James, Pontyffyon, was elected on to the Board of Management.

A Conference was held at the central office of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children on Monday between representatives of the Committee, the Coroners' Society, and the British Medical Association on the subject of deaths of children from overlying and burning. It was agreed to take steps to influence legislation in the direction of stopping the present waste of infant life arising from these preventable causes.

The bestowal of the Cross of the Legion of Honour upon Major Dreyfus was performed on Saturday afternoon in the precincts of the Ecole Militaire at Paris, though not in the courtyard in which he was degraded nearly twelve years ago. What a soul-stirring scene it must have been! It is reported that Dreyfus remained almost motionless throughout the ceremony, but when his son, a boy of fifteen (after the troops had been marched off), threw his arms round his father's neck, he gave way altogether and wept freely. He was cheered by the crowd outside when he drove away, and there were shouts of "Vive la justice! Vive la République!" Thus does a generous nation make the *amende honorable* to an injured son.

## Our Foreign Letter.

### AN OPERATION IN A PRIVATE HOUSE IN FRANCE.



There has been a great deal said, and quite justly, about the very imperfect condition of nursing in France, of medical nursing particularly. Amongst the few, very few educated women who are striving to raise the standard of the profession, surgery is their one and only idea. "Faire des pausements," that sums up the whole of a French nurse's ambition, and when that is accomplished it would seem that patients cannot possibly require more at her hands. Many things are wanting before nurses over here will be really efficient. Nevertheless, I fancy that an English nurse, called upon for the first time to assist at an operation in a private house would be somewhat surprised, and certainly edified, to find how up-to-date all the arrangements are. Two months ago I was asked to nurse a lady suffering from appendicitis. She had not had a real attack, but for some months she always felt very sick after meals and had tenderness over the appendiceal region.

The operation was to take place at 8 a.m., and the Doctor wished me to arrive at 6 o'clock the evening before. On reaching the house, which is situated in the Avenue du Bois de Boulogne, one of the most beautiful parts of that loveliest of cities, Paris, I found that my future patient was out for a walk. When she returned I suggested that she should go to bed, but she said, "Oh! no, we have a dinner-party this evening, and the Surgeon said that I may assist, as long as I do not eat too much." It seems to me that they make rather light of abdominal operations, for the Doctor told this lady that there is no more danger in an appendicectomy than in having your hair cut! I was then shown our rooms. The whole of a large flat was at our disposal, only furnished with what was strictly necessary. A more perfect, Nursing Home could not be imagined. The large windows looked on to the Avenue which is very wide, so that we were not near enough to be troubled by the endless string of automobiles and carriages that pass all day and part of the night. The temporary operating theatre was ready and looked quite tempting. I think that the most quizzical theatre sister could have found nothing to criticise.

Nowadays there are very few operations in private houses; the surgeons, of course, prefer nursing homes. But when it is necessary, or the patient refuses to leave his own house the preparations are perfectly simple. A telephone message to the Maison Leclere, Rue Vignon, is sufficient, stating what the operation is to be, and also who is the surgeon and they supply all and everything that is necessary, from the woollen stockings to the operation table, including large

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)