

## The Midwife.

### The City of London Lying-in Hospital.

#### OPENING OF THE NEW BUILDING BY H.R.H. PRINCESS CHRISTIAN.

The opening of the new Hospital on Monday, July 1st, was a very interesting ceremony. The fitful, showery June weather had given place to a welcome burst of sunshine. A large marquee was erected on a plot of ground at the back, the dais of which was prettily decorated with palms and crimson ramblers. A guard of honour was mounted by the East London Royal Engineers; the Band of the same regiment played selections during the afternoon.

Her Royal Highness was received at the main entrance by the Consulting Physician and Consulting Surgeon, and other members of the Reception Committee. After having made an inspection of the Wards, she was escorted to the marquee.

The Lord Mayor, President of the Hospital, in a few words welcomed the Princess on behalf of the Governors, after which Mr. J. Francis, J.P., Chairman of the Hospital, gave a few particulars of the new building, the erection of which, he said, had been a matter of necessity and not choice.

The old building, which had stood since 1750, had served its excellent purpose, in one of the poorest parts of London, where no other of its kind existed.

In 1903 signs of something wrong became apparent; the L.C.C. declared it to be a dangerous structure, and ordered it to be pulled down. On discovering the cause to be the tunnelling of the ground for the new Tube, the Governors put in a claim for compensation. The totally inadequate sum of £3,000 was paid over to them. The new building has cost £40,000. The Chairman, therefore, made a very earnest appeal to his hearers for substantial donations to meet the deficiency.

After a short service, conducted by the Bishop of Stepney, the Princess declared the building open; she then left, and the visitors were invited to make a tour of inspection.

In the Hospital, which is built to contain 50 beds, no requirement of modern science is forgotten. Two or three special features are worthy of notice. Firstly, the large central shaft is utilised both for accommodation for the lift, and for purposes of ventilation, with admirable effect. Secondly the Isolation Ward on the roof, with a room for the nurse, kitchen, and offices, recalls the fine Presbyterian Hospital in New York, with its roof occupation, and cannot fail to be of positive benefit to the patient, as well as to those in the wards below in a negative degree.

The third special feature of this beautiful place

is a babies' bath-room on each of the two floors. In the middle of a good sized room, there is a structure of enamelled iron, with eight depressions, the size of a baby's bath; four on either side of the row of water taps, which are worked by the feet, leaving the hands of the nurses free to attend to the babies. Provision is also made for soap and powder.

The colour scheme throughout the building is cream and green in washable paint, a dado of a soft shade of the colour on all the walls, has an excellent effect. The heating is by hot water pipes. Needless to say, there are no dust traps in any form. The gospel of asepticism is, of course, faithfully followed in the well-equipped Labour wards. The doors are particularly striking; they are of teak, of considerable height and width, perfectly plain without a moulding of any sort; there is grandeur in their simplicity, and they impart no small dignity to the rooms; one is almost surprised to find how characteristic such a commonplace thing as a door can be!

The handsome frontage of this Hospital is of red brick, the balcony is supported on fine red granite columns.

### The Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives.

A very pleasant afternoon was spent on Monday by Midwives of the above Association and their friends, at 75, Barkston Gardens, S.W., where they were most hospitably entertained by Miss Lorent Grant, on the occasion of their annual gathering. After tea Mrs. Wallace Bruce, Chairman of the Executive Committee, welcomed those present, and Badges of Membership were then presented by Lady Balfour of Burleigh to the following midwives, who had qualified for them by six months' satisfactory work:—*Ada Gibson*, trained at the General Lying-In Hospital, York Road, working at Hastings; *Bessie Kinnell*, trained at the East Ham Home, working in Leicestershire; *Isabel Morgan*, working at Barry, South Wales; *Gertrude Parker*, working at Hastings; *Jennie Trueman*, working at Gotherington, Gloucestershire, all trained at the East End Mothers' Home; and *Sarah Wheatley*, trained at the East Ham Home, working at Nottingham.

Members not present, who were awarded Badges: *Annie Allen*, trained at the East Ham Home, working at Wells, Norfolk; *Mabel Carthew*, trained at the General Lying-In Hospital, York Road, working at Market Drayton; *Mary Coombes*, working at Thorverton, near Exeter; *Constance Goddard*, working at Millbrook, near Southampton; and *Emily Pearson*, working at Handforth, all trained at the East Ham Home.

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