

## The Midwife.

### A Valuable Book for Midwives.

A book which deserves to be widely known and read by both midwives and nurses is "Obstetrics for Nurses," by Dr. Joseph B. De Lee, Professor of Obstetrics at the Northwestern University Medical School, and Obstetrician to the Cook County and Lying-In Hospitals, Chicago. It gives concisely and clearly much information of value to both classes of workers as to the anatomy and physiology of the reproductive system, nursing during labour, and the puerperium. The book has numerous illustrations, which, as will be seen from those here reproduced, are not only of high artistic merit, but of great value in conveying information of practical importance. In the United States the midwife is little known, the care of obstetric cases being undertaken by thoroughly trained nurses under the direction of medical practitioners. It is interesting to note the author's views of the standing of the obstetric nurse, and his remarks must apply with even greater force to the midwife whose responsibility is greater than that of the obstetric nurse.

"The writer believes that obstetric nursing requires higher skill than any other form of nursing, comprising as it does medical, surgical, and infant nursing. It is more arduous, surely. For this reason only the best nurses

should adopt this specialty, and the writer believes that the remuneration should be higher than for work in the other branches of the profession. An obstetric nurse should not take infectious cases. She should leave sufficient time to elapse between engagements. It is better for the nurse to be at the house a few days or a week before the day of labour, but most women prefer to wait until labour has begun before sending for the nurse, which is a very uncomfortable way, since this keeps the nurse waiting at her home, and she may not be accessible when

wanted. Occasionally, an arrangement is made whereby the nurse remains at her home for a stated period before the labour, being paid, by agreement, half or full salary. The time a nurse is called depends, of course, upon the time set for the confinement, and since this can never be determined ac-



WOMAN IN PROPER POSITION FOR NURSING AN INFANT.

curately, the nurse is not certain when she will be summoned. A certain date is usually agreed upon from which time the nurse awaits a call. The nurse may take short, clean, cases up to this date, or if they promise to run over the date of her obstetric engagement, with the stipulation that she will be allowed to leave when the call comes."

We have always held that obstetric nurses and midwives should be highly trained, and it is noticeable that both in France the midwives who have two years' training, and in America the thoroughly trained obstetric

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)