

The Midwife.

Our Schools of Midwifery.

THE GENERAL LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

The General Lying-In Hospital, York Road, London, S.E., has many and great traditions, and its record of work during nearly a century and a half makes profitable and significant reading. The work is growing vigorously; the improvement and forward movement of the last few years testify to its virility. The exterior is dreary, grey, heavy, but once inside, the gloomy impression vanishes; the wards, most of which contain four beds, are charming, well lighted, airy, cheery; an atmosphere of friendliness and earnestness prevails and on all sides are proofs that the methods and teaching are up-to-date, though the old building does not allow of every convenience.

The Matron, Miss Park, aided by her staff, is indefatigable in training the pupil nurses. She spends many hours in the wards, besides doing the considerable administrative work of the hospital. She lectures three times a week to senior, junior, and night nurses respectively. They get a thorough drilling in douching, passing of catheters, preparation of hand feeds and chart keeping. The baby has its own chart; the temperature, motions, etc., are noted; it is weighed daily; the weight curve, which is particularly graphic, shows at a glance the progress of the child. The pupil monthly nurses have also a week in the Labour Ward where they see from 16 to 20 cases; this gives them a good insight into the conduct of labour; whenever work allows they see the deliveries at other times. Off duty times are well arranged, and the excellent Home Sister sees to the comfort of the whole

of the nursing and domestic staff.

For trained nurses there is an eight weeks' course, fees £12 12s.; untrained women have a twelve weeks' course, fees £18 18s.; a few, known as district trained monthly nurses, take four weeks in hospital and four weeks on the district, fees £12 12s. Each term a scholarship of £5 5s. is given by one of the late Visiting Physicians to the nurse gaining the highest number of marks in the examination, on condition that she takes a course of midwifery in the hospital. Only those who

have had previous experience in general or monthly nursing can do this; the fees are 25 guineas. The pupil midwives have six weeks in the Labour Ward, where they see many abnormal cases, three weeks' monthly nursing, and three weeks' district work; they get splendid experience and good teaching. The note schemes with particulars of the labour, etc., are very full; these are filled in by the pupil under the direction of the Head Midwife, who is also styled Teacher of Midwifery; she conducts all normal labours. The first few weeks of the term are very arduous and trying, the last are in delightful contrast; the pupils have fewer

false alarms, and begin to enjoy diagnosing and responsibility. Besides the usual course of lectures given by one of the Visiting Physicians, there are occasional lectures and demonstrations in the wards by the Resident Medical Officer, three lectures weekly from the Head Midwife, and a coaching class on Saturdays. The pupil midwives have a pleasant study, with an up-to-date library; the results of the C.M.B. speak eloquently for their training and zeal. The Labour Wards are well equipped, the upper one is tiled in



Miss A. PARK.

Matron General Lying-In Hospital, London.

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