

The Midwife.

Our Schools of Midwifery.

THE EAST END MOTHERS' LYING-IN HOME.

The objects of the East End Mothers' Home (396, Commercial Road, E.) are two-fold: (1) to maintain in the East of London a Home for the treatment of poor married women during child-birth, free of any charge to the patients, and (2) to train midwives and nurses for attendance on the poor at their own homes. The success of the Training School is evident when it is realised that last year the total cost of maintenance, administration, and ordinary expenditure of the institution was £2,017 7s. 3d., and the income derived from nurses' and probationers' fees was no less than £977 8s. 1d.

To the patients who enter the Home it must be a haven of rest in the midst of their strenuous and courageous lives. They are of a class who normally are underfed and overworked, and who are frequently the breadwinners of the family. When they are laid aside the family income ceases, and such things as are pawnable are pawned in order to pay the rent and provide some sort of food.

Were it not for the shelter and care provided by the Home, the lying-in period would be one of special hardship, but once within its hospitable walls for two brief weeks they have every care, good food, warmth, and comfort, without having to take thought for it themselves.

There are twenty-two beds in the Home, all too small a number surely for the requirements of the district, but that is in the hands of the rich in the West End. Did they realise their responsibilities to the East, the Committee would speedily have funds to increase the number.

The Lady Superintendent is Miss Margaret Anderson, who was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and for four years was Sister at Queen Charlotte's Hospital. In her able

hands not only is the training of the midwifery and maternity pupils maintained at a high level of efficiency, but there is a delightful home atmosphere throughout the building. It is evident that, living amongst the poor, Miss Anderson loves them, and her one desire is to aid them, not only while they are in the Home, but, by keeping in touch with them afterwards, to help them to train their children wisely, and to bring some brightness into their lives. To this end, she has established a weekly meeting, which many of the former

patients attend, when she talks to them about the things they really want to know in regard to the care of their children. The satisfactory result is that of all the babies she has kept in touch with during the last year only two have died during their first 12 months of life, a striking testimony to what may be done by efficient and friendly instruction.

On entering the Home the patients have a bath and put on clean clothes, and then go up to the wards. There are three labour wards, one of which is always in readiness. Very cheery and bright, they are with a cheerful fire burning in the grate, and everything ready for the new arrival.

In the general wards the patients are evi-

dently at home and happy, and the babies, each in his or her own cot, healthy, warm, and rosy, are as bonnie specimens as any mother's heart could desire.

Besides the 430 patients nursed in the Home last year, 458 were attended in their own homes. The same method and efficiency which pervades the Home is evidenced in regard to the district work also. The district midwives' bags have a cupboard of their own, and the washable lining of each is removed and sterilised once a week or oftener if necessary.

The pupil midwives receive a weekly lecture from the Hon. Medical Officer, and this is followed up by the Matron in her classes, of



MISS MARGARET ANDERSON.
Lady Superintendent East End Mothers' Home.

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