

## The Midwife.

### Obstetrical Work in Berlin.

In a recent number of the Magazine of the London School of Medicine for Women, Miss Bolton contributes an article on Obstetrical Work in Berlin at the Charité Mère.

The disinfection before vaginal examination is very thorough; the hands and arms are first scrubbed for five minutes in running water, the nails are then cleaned, and the hands again scrubbed for three minutes. They are then dried with a sterile towel, scrubbed for five minutes in alcohol, followed by 1 in 1,000 perchloride of mercury; finally sterile rubber gloves are drawn on. The patient is delivered on her back, and the third stage is left practically entirely to Nature; the placenta is only expressed in urgent cases—for example, hæmorrhage. Should this occur, the effect of cold in producing uterine contractions is chiefly relied upon; ice bags are placed on the abdomen and ice cold douches are administered; ergot is given. In severer cases, packing the uterus and vagina with sterile gauze is resorted to.

The labour wards contain six beds, linen overalls are worn by everyone in the wards; sterile gowns are used by the operators.

If perennal rupture seems inevitable, episiotomy is performed; this more frequently occurs in forceps cases.

Patients suffering from eclampsia are delivered as speedily as possible; chloral and morphia are first given, followed by large doses of theobromine, two hourly, subcutaneous saline transfusion, and digatein intravenously.

Normally, the patient stays from eight to ten days in hospital.

It would have been of interest if the average amount of hæmorrhage, the number of cases of post-partum hæmorrhage, the percentage of septic cases; etc., had been given; but the paper is written rather with the object of inducing students to take the very valuable month's course in the clinic rather than as a criticism of the methods used.

### A New Association of Midwives.

Dr. Ethel Williams has been appointed President, and Miss Renaud, of the Health Department, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Hon. Secretary to the Northumberland and Durham Midwives' Association. It is not very usual to find Asso-

ciations of Midwives receiving the support of medical practitioners, but in the present instance the Association has secured the support of the medical profession in the locality, and it is hoped that the monthly lectures which are being arranged will be delivered by medical men. The committee consists of three inspectors of midwives, three midwives, and two lay persons.

### The Midwives' Institute.

Miss Jane Wilson was unanimously re-elected President of the Midwives' Institute at the annual meeting, and the Midwives' Defence Association has ceased to exist. Protection and defence will for the future be undertaken as part of the Institute's work. Miss Wilson's resignation from the Central Midwives' Board will free her hands, and it is to be hoped that for the future the Institute will adopt a firm and progressive policy, in support of the right of certified midwives to direct representation on the Board which governs their professional work, otherwise they will continue to be ignored.

### The Central Midwives' Board.

The Lord President of the Council has to appoint the Hon. Mrs. Charles Egerton to be a member of the Central Midwives' Board in the place of Miss Jane Wilson, resigned.

Miss Rosalind Paget is the only certified midwife on the Board of nine. How wise was the great "Dizzy." "Never resign," said he.

MISS WILSON'S LETTER OF RESIGNATION.  
Central Midwives' Board,  
Caxton House, Westminster,  
London, S. W.

TO THE RIGHT HON. THE VISCOUNT WOLVERHAMPTON,  
LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL.

MY LORD,—

I wish to place in your Lordship's hands my resignation of the seat on the Central Midwives' Board to which I have been twice nominated by successive Lords President during the past six years.

The term of my second appointment does not expire till April, 1909, but I prefer to resign now in order to be free to protest against the constitution of the new Departmental Committee which your Lordship has appointed to consider the working of the Midwives' Act, 1902, and the supply and training of midwives, etc.

That such a committee should have been

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