

As this is a new country, the ranch houses resemble the shacks of the working classes in our cities, may have one to four rooms, may be papered with lining paper or newspapers, with here and there a picture cut from a magazine.

In a little house at the foot of the Sisters mountains, 22 miles from Bend, a tiny three-months-old baby had malnutrition. The physician wished to place it under the care of a nurse, and finally succeeded, because he needed her to assist him with perineorrhaphy, as the mother needed the operation. The dwelling consisted of four rooms, one of which was used for both dining and living room. This was used for the operating room, and prepared by the nurse the day before. Of course, she sterilised all things necessary, so recovery was almost a foregone conclusion, especially since there are *no germs* in the country. This is a saying of the wise.

But the poor little boy? What could be done for him? Commonsense, regular feeding, exact following of the physician's orders, and fresh air were all that were needed to make a wonderful difference in the little chap in two weeks.

What do you think was suggested to the inexperienced young mother by her neighbours and friends? Every kind of prepared food, of course, was tried by her a few days; burnt cracker added to gruel almost caused his death, poor boy. An ice pack, because *after* feeding the abdomen was enlarged and he was said to be mortifying. Fortunately the man's better judgment sent him to the telephone to consult the doctor, who assured him it would kill the child. Not satisfied with a close room, a hot fire was kept burning, though the child was clothed in flannel and the time of year was summer.

One of the greatest difficulties one finds is the length of time it takes to reach a patient, for, as we have said before, we are in a country of magnificent distances. If one receives a call, it may take two or three days before she can reach the patient, and if the person is in a critical condition when the nurse receives the telephone message the result may be anything but gratifying.

People in this wilderness, the pioneers, do anything that comes to hand. In a neighbouring town, a drive of only thirty-five miles reached by stage or private conveyance, the undertaker is furniture dealer, plumber, mattress manufacturer, and hardware merchant, so one can easily see that the services of a nurse at the time of death must be doubly gratifying to the family.

There must be ample room for nurses with the instinct of the pioneer in this locality.

Midwives' Examinations.

At an ordinary meeting of the College of Surgeons; held last week, at which the President, Mr. Henry T. Bullin, presided, Mr. C. H. Golding-Bird, the College representative on the Central Midwives' Board, reported the proceedings of the Board during the past year, and stated that the number of midwives on the roll was 28,843. The Board held six examinations in London and three in each of the provincial centres, with the following results:—London, 1,735 entered, 1,457 passed; Birmingham, 159 entered, 132 passed; Bristol, 178 entered, 144 passed; Manchester, 376 entered, 286 passed; and Newcastle-on-Tyne, 171 entered, 140 passed. Leeds has now been constituted a provincial centre. Mr. Golding-Bird further reported that the long standing question of the payment of doctors who respond to the call of the midwife, acting under the rules of the Board, is still unsettled. It appears that the Board has done its best to induce the various local governing bodies to exercise what powers they at present possess in that direction, but only an Act of Parliament can enforce the payment of the fees. In many districts arrangements have been made for the various local authorities to provide the necessary medical assistance to the midwife, by arrangement with the doctors residing in their various districts, and in the case of the destitute poor this assistance is given through the authority of the Poor Law Guardians, but the adoption of these arrangements is far from universal. The refusal of a doctor to attend the midwife's summons, while certainly legitimate in present circumstances, is to be regretted, since the patients' lives are thereby endangered. Many medical men have, however, without prospect of reward, given their services under these conditions. The best thanks of the Council were given to Mr. Golding-Bird for his services on the Midwives' Board.

The National Association of Midwives.

It is regrettable that the work of the National Association of Midwives should not receive more encouragement from the Midwives' Institute, because there is ample room for both Associations. The position is this, the National Association consider direct representation on the Central Midwives' Board of supreme importance in the immediate future. Members of the Institute present at the Caxton Hall meeting were not averse to it "some day," but with extreme modesty doubted their capacity to act on the Board at the present time. That being so, the way is surely open for the 28,000 midwives who are not members of the Institute to work for a reform they consider vital. The two societies can work harmoniously side by side, but their point of view being different, they can scarcely amalgamate, although the multiplication of societies may not be theoretically desirable.

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