

needs the safeguards and apparatus which are to be had completely only in a hospital or institution, and not in a private house of any kind." Therefore they argue that women of every class, rich and poor, should be urged to enter institutions for this purpose. Since when has childbearing ceased to be a normal act, that it is now to be classed with "other dangerous operations?" Moreover, it is surely cruel to impress upon women the danger of an event to which most of them look forward with some dread, when it is proved that something less than 2 per 1,000 is the average maternal mortality when patients are attended by skilled midwives. We imagine that it will take some persuasion to induce women who can afford to pay for the services of competent nurses to make a habit of leaving their own homes and entering an institution for their confinements, although it is held out as an inducement, in the case of the Munich institution, that it is to be a "home from home." It does not seem to have dawned upon the good doctors that it needs the Matron or house mother, whom they in their wisdom consider "superfluous," to make a "home."

A point which is considered important by the founders of the new institution—*Frauenheim*, as it is called—is "the free entry of one chosen friend of the patient at all times and seasons to the hospital," a regulation which we imagine could only work well in the male imagination. Daily visits, certainly, but "at all times and seasons." It will be curious to note how the staff of young medical practitioners, *minus* the organising control of a Matron, will manage the work under these conditions. The supreme control of the *Frauenheim* is to be vested in a house surgeon or director "of the highest possible skill," and it is needless to add that "his emoluments will consist of a handsome salary, a good dwelling-house attached to the hospital, and the right to receive as many patients as he pleases in his own consulting room, as well as the use of a certain specified number of beds for his own cases. Within bounds, the house surgeon is to be an autocrat—almost a despot. But he is to be appointed by members of the Society (*Verein*) created to establish the home, and responsible to them alone, and patients and friends of patients are to have the opportunity of stating grievances and suggesting amendments—in fact, of governing in their own interests.

It is said that in Germany a happy "bed-side manner" is not cultivated with the same care as in England. "Some German doctors bully their patients into health, as the drill

sergeant bullies his recruits. And the nurses, overworked and undertrained, have not the cheery, kindly exterior to which we are accustomed in London."

Dr. Hengge one of the most distinguished Munich physicians, has recently visited England and America to study the systems in force, and lecturing recently at Munich gave unstinted praise to English hospitals, the kindness and competency of the nurses, and the "comfort" with which patients and nurses are surrounded. It is just that atmosphere of "comfort" which mere man, with the best of intentions, can never disseminate, and for this reason we fear the *Frauenheim* can never fulfil the hopes of its promoters.

A MATERNITY WARD AT "BARTS."

A maternity ward is soon to be opened at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, but we gather it will be used for the instruction in midwifery of medical students, and not of nurses. A suggestion that the nurses should be compelled to pay for training in this ward "as at the London" would be most unfair, as they will only receive instruction in maternity nursing, and not the necessary experience in midwifery to qualify themselves for the Central Midwives' Board examination and certificate—a professional asset of commercial value.

A LOVELY BABBY.

At the Bristol Police Court, recently, Elizabeth Walker, of Elberton Place, Regent Road, Bedminster, was summoned for contravening the Midwives' Act by practising without being duly certified. Mr. F. P. Tyrrell (Town Clerk's Office) prosecuted, and said the Act came into force in 1902, but the section enforcing the registration of midwives did not become operative till April of this year. Notice of that clause had been given from time to time to women practising as midwives, and one prosecution in respect of a woman practising without a certificate had taken place. Defendant had been practising as a midwife for some years, and up to the present time, but she had not been certified. She had been cautioned on two occasions by the Coroner.

Evidence was given by women whom defendant had attended lately, but they all agreed that defendant was a kind and skilful nurse.

Defendant inquired of one: "Have you anything to complain of?"

Witness: No, it's a lovely babby.

Mr. Tyrrell: She attended you for another, did she not? Was that a lovely babby, too?

Yes; a fine boy. She looked after me well.

Defendant admitted the offence, but said she had tried to get a certificate. She frequently attended cases with doctors, and they were satisfied with her.

The magistrates adjourned the case for a month, telling defendant she must not practise meanwhile, unless she obtained a certificate.

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