

The Midwife.

The Royal Maternity Charity.

The annual Staff Tea of the midwives of the Royal Maternity Charity took place on Thursday last at the Eustace Miles Restaurant, W.C., by the kind invitation of Major Killick (Secretary to the Charity) and Mrs. Killick. Major Killick was prevented by indisposition from being present, and was greatly missed, as his kindly and hospitable greetings, and appreciative words to the midwives on the staff, in whose good work he sincerely believes, are always welcome on these occasions.

Mrs. Killick received the guests, who then took their seats at small tables covered with bright and dainty cloths, where a bountiful tea was served by deft handed waitresses with the erect and confident carriage characteristic of the Eustace Miles Restaurant, where physical exercises are part of the daily routine. On each table were baskets of ripe red strawberries, nestling in their green leaves, and jugs of cream, to which those present did full justice.

At the conclusion of the tea, Dr. Sunderland, a member of the medical staff, proposed a vote of thanks to Major and Mrs. Killick for their hospitality, and took the opportunity of thanking the midwives for their good work and loyal co-operation and for maintaining the standard of excellence of which the Charity was justly proud. This was seconded by Dr. Swan and carried by acclamation.

After some excellent music and recitations by Mr. Sivor Levey and Mr. Ivan Borlyn, who were introduced to the audience by Mrs. Eustace Miles, there was an interesting demonstration of some of the breathing and other exercises taught at the school, described by Mr. Eustace Miles, and a wonderfully clever performance with clubs, in which the performer kept in unison with the pianist. A feature of the breathing exercises, as taught here, is that while one side of the body is exercising the other is resting, thereby conserving its energy and avoiding unnecessary waste. Mr. Miles also showed some diagrams which illustrated the displacement of the various organs of the human body under certain conditions, and for which he believes stretching and breathing exercises to be the correct solution. He instanced the downward pressure on the abdominal organs in those whose occupations are sedentary, with the consequence that they are often misplaced. To those whose special duty it is to care for the body, the demonstration was most interesting.

A New Inspector of Midwives.

Miss Barbara M. Cunningham, M.B., B.Ch. Edin., D.P.H. Cambridge, and L.M. Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, has been appointed Inspector of Midwives for Manchester in succession to Dr. Margaret Merry Smith. Dr. Cunningham has had charge of one of the Dufferin Hospitals in India, and administrative control of hospitals at Nagpur and Delhi.

Events in the Obstetric World.

Dr. W. H. Maidlow, F.R.C.S., President of the West Somerset Branch of the British Medical Association, in his Presidential Address, of which an abstract is published in the *British Medical Journal*, spoke as follows:—

The chief events in the obstetric world which seem to me worthy of mention are:—

1. Removal from our hands of much of what I call lower-class midwifery by the "new nurse."

2. The birth-rate, if we may judge by statistics, seems to be decidedly falling, and I feel pretty certain this is not due to sterility or late marriages, but rather to methods of prevention and abortions.

3. With the advent of the "new nurse" there has been a diminution, and we may expect a still further decrease, of methods designed to kill the child and an increase of those to save its life for the State; and I can conceive a time when the doctor's chief work will be to do Caesarean section when the nurse has failed with forceps or version, with or without our help, and even then with proper examination and improved methods of rearing premature children this might be avoided.

4. A wordy fight has been often waged between those who wait and watch, giving no chloroform till the very end, and with reluctance apply forceps, and those who, rather than wait, give chloroform, dilate the cervix if it is dilatable, and very readily deliver the child and make a good job of the inevitably torn perineum. Women in the upper circles fall in very readily with the last plan, of which I am a disciple, but I have a disquieting suspicion that the argument from saving time and distress is not rather biassed, and that those attended by the expectant school have rather lower *post mortem* morbidity.

5. Scopolamine-morphine injection seems distinctly useful when chloroform is contraindicated and in the earlier stages. It relieves the pain and does not stop labour, is a useful substitute for opium or chloral in relieving spasm and inducing sleep, although for this condition I think a sterilised preparation of eucaïne applied to the cervix is best.

Midwives in Japan.

Miss Wald writes from Japan to the *American Journal of Nursing*:—"We went to the graduating exercises of midwives at Dr. Saiki's hospital. Thirty-eight women completed one year's study which, after Government examination, permits the practice of midwifery. These examinations are said to be difficult. Dr. Saiki is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and a post-graduate student of Johns Hopkins. Most of these women returned to the hospital for an additional year of training to complete the course for a trained nurse's certificate. I addressed them, and the interpreter then made an elaborate speech in Japanese purporting to be my impromptu remarks. The room where we had the exercises was

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