

The Midwifery Ward at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Former members of the nursing staff at St. Bartholomew's Hospital might well imagine they had strayed into another hospital if they visited "Elizabeth" without knowing that its purpose and structure have been changed, for it has been transformed beyond recognition. Formerly one of the busiest (and the largest) of the women's medical wards, it has now been converted into a maternity ward, its walls enamelled a most pleasant creamy tint, with the exception of the combined theatre and delivery room, where tiles are used, the floors are covered with terrazo, warm red in colour. The front ward is a general ward, where spotless white beds, with swing cradles at the foot of each, provide accommodation for mothers and babies. A wide passage has been taken off the back ward, and opening into this, much on the plan of "Martha," are the theatre with delivery bedstead of special and suitable height, and firm zinc foundation, instead of the ordinary wire-woven mattress, which is apt to sag, a bath with hot and cold water laid on, for the resuscitation of asphyxiated infants, and all necessary appliances and instruments for the delivery room. In the corridor is waiting a stretcher on wheels, on which, after delivery, the patient and mattress are placed and wheeled to the bedstead in the general ward.

Adjoining, and opening into this, is a small ward containing two beds, for imminent cases, and next a small ward containing four beds for cases which require special attention and quiet.

The last sub-division of this ward is the babies' bath-room and dressing-room, with its centre china pedestal, forming four baths, and heated, as are the theatre and other wards, by means of radiators. An annexe near the kitchen is the room where the students wait until summoned to their cases.

The Visiting Physician in charge of the ward is Dr. Williamson, and the Ward Sister, who is a Certified Midwife, Miss E. M. Hansard. Clinical lectures are given in the ward by Dr. Williamson, and the two nurses, who are in training for the examination of the Central Midwives' Board, attend these lectures, are responsible for their own cases, keep and read out their own notes, and have to answer any questions addressed to them by Dr. Williamson, which is excellent practice in view of the coming examination.

We understand that the majority of the cases admitted so far have been abnormal.

At present there are no facilities for the nurses to have experience in district midwifery,

but it is to be hoped that this may be arranged, both because expectant mothers whose confinements are likely to be normal do not, as a rule, care to go into hospital; and also, because, unless additional training ground is provided, by means of attendance on outside cases, very few nurses will be able to personally deliver twenty patients, which is a necessity for candidates for the examination of the Central Midwives' Board, and this training and certificate are a valuable addition to the equipment of a nurse.

The Central Midwives Board.

The monthly meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held in the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, S.W., on Thursday, March 23rd, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Midwives' Institute announcing the re-election of Dr. George Ernest Herman as the representative of the Institute on the Central Midwives' Board for the year ensuing the first of April next.

A letter was also considered in reference to an uncertified midwife, and a chemist said to be working in concert. It was decided to reply that if the woman practised habitually, and for gain, she could be dealt with by the Central Midwives' Board, but that the chemist did not come under its jurisdiction.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

The Standing Committee reported that a special meeting had been held on March 2nd for the purpose of revising the rules, numerous suggestions by Local Supervising Authorities were considered, and a considerable number of amendments made.

On the report of the Standing Committee a letter was considered from the Clerk to the Willesden Guardians objecting to the District Medical Officer being summoned to assist a midwife in an emergency by means of an order on the Relieving Officer.

It was agreed that the attention of the midwife be called to the necessity for complying strictly with the terms of Rule E, 18, and that a copy of the correspondence be sent to the Local Supervising Authority for Middlesex.

A letter was considered from the Deputy Registrar of Nurses and Midwives, New Zealand, asking the Board to admit to the Roll women holding the State Midwifery Certificate of New Zealand, or alternatively to recognise training schools in the Dominion.

It was decided that the reply be (a) that the Board has at present no power to grant reciprocal terms of treatment to women holding midwifery certificates in other parts of His Majesty's dominions; (b) that the Board will be pleased to consider the matter should Clause 12 of the Midwives' (No. 2) Bill, 1910, or a similar clause, authorising the Board to grant reciprocal terms, become law.

A letter was also considered from Sister Henrietta,

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