

The Midwife.

MIDWIVES OF NOTE.

MADAME CAROLINE CORNU.*

President of the Society of Midwives of Geneva.

Our venerable citizen, who delights to say "Je suis Genevoise," passes her days peacefully and happily, but not inactively, in her dainty apartment in the Rue des Alpes.

"You wish to speak to me," she said to the colleague who begins to-day in this paper a series of articles on the oldest members of professions in Geneva.

"With your permission, Madame. You have been mentioned to me as being the only midwife who has arrived at a great age without giving up her profession."

"It is true I am the oldest. I have colleagues who are some years older than I am, but they no longer practise."

"You will let me interview you?"

"In my days it was not done, but as you wish it—what do you wish to know of me?"

"You must begin from the beginning."

"Oh, yes, by my birth. I am at home on the subject of births. Well, I was born May 21st, 1838. I studied at Bourg, because in my time they did not train at Geneva.

"I am seventy-four years old, and have practised from the time I was twenty; that makes fifty-four years; that is something!"

"Yes, Madame, it is splendid. Have you counted the number of your cases?" "Yes; I have been consulted during this length of time by thousands of mothers, and I have assisted at rather more than 3,000 births."

"You have seen much trouble?" "Yes, and I have had my own also." And Madame Cornu related with much emotion a tragic scene, which resembles the most touching passages of "The Country Doctor."

"My poor husband was in the agonies of death. He was going, and I knew that I was liable to be called at any moment to a case, as the hour of one of my patients had arrived. The bell rang. They came to fetch me in a motor car. I was expected at Bessinges. What was I to do? I knew that the child would not arrive for some hours, but my husband would leave me for ever in a few moments. I sent for one of my colleagues, and she went in the motor car. The following morning I heard that

the child had opened his eyes just at the time my husband had closed his."

The venerable woman who has seen so much sorrow bears her own, but she is seized with a slight trembling when she recalls these painful hours.

Madame Cornu continued: "Now I am resigned and peaceful. I live alone with 'my business,' but I am surrounded by members of my family. I should be very happy if I had not from time to time a little annoyance."

"What is it, Madame Cornu?"

"I will tell you of the last. It was from 'up there' (the authorities). Imagine at my age sending me a letter asking what I earned, and I must answer in the envelope that was not even prepaid. So I took my pen and wrote a nice letter to those gentlemen. I have a little income to live upon, but at seventy-four I cannot go every day to 'make one.' I wrote to those gentlemen that it is they who ought to pay me the tax for having assisted more than 3,000 citizens to enter the world who certainly pay their taxes—for me."

"You are right, Madame Cornu. I will say a word for you 'up there.'" I have kept my word.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITAL.

Viscount Portman presided at the recent annual meeting of governors and subscribers of Queen Charlotte's Hospital.

The report stated that during the past year, 1843 patients had been admitted to the wards of the hospital, and 2296 others had been attended and nursed in their own homes. There had been a considerable falling off in the income derived from donations and legacies, resulting in a deficiency on the year's working of £1,970.

The pupils of the hospital have again been very successful in the examinations of the Central Midwives' Board. An important step has been taken during the year, in the formation of the Ladies' Association in connection with the hospital. The association has already upwards of 150 members, and subscriptions and donations received during the year amounted to £155. The Ladies' Executive Committee resolved to spend £100 on linen for use in the wards, and to subscribe £50 annually for naming a bed in the hospital called "The Ladies Association Bed."

Reference was made to the effect it was feared the National Insurance Act would have on the income of voluntary hospitals, and it was pointed out that it was most unlikely the majority of the patients relieved by the hospital would become

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