

The Midwife.

THE MATERNITY HOSPITAL AND SCHOOL FOR MIDWIVES, COLOGNE.

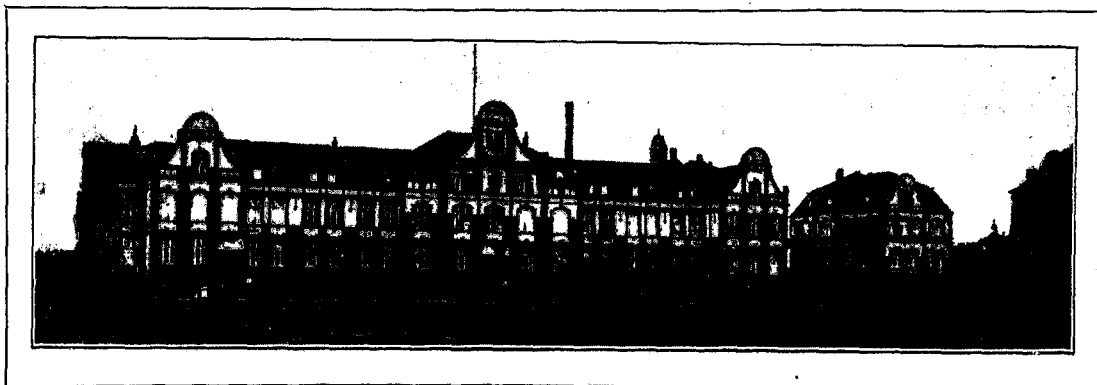
The International Nursing Congress was over; nothing was left of it but a few stragglers, who, maybe from necessity, or possibly a disinclination to leave the scene of so many inspiring impressions, had lingered behind. Nothing was left of the Congress! The readers of our JOURNAL will resent that statement, unless I qualify it. Well, then, the outward and visible signs of it had disappeared; but to those who had attended this great gathering of the Nations in a serious mood, the real work—the enduring work—had only begun.

I was one of the stragglers; and on Sunday

floors and walls of polished concrete are to be seen everywhere. There is, of course, a cot beside each bed, over which a mosquito-curtain is spread. The sanitary towels used for the mothers are of sterilised absorbent wool; these are taken straight from the steriliser by the pupil-midwife with a pair of forceps—the hands are not used.

There are excellent bath-rooms for each class of patient—the difference appeared to be merely that of name! One room contained appliances for mechanical massage for patients needing muscular stimulation.

In quick succession I was shown an X-ray room, a laboratory, consulting rooms, waiting rooms, and every sort of luxurious medical requirement for five resident obstetric physicians.



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afternoon, August 11th, I visited one of the most interesting institutions—from a professional point of view—in the city. The *Frauenklinik und Hebammen-Lehranstalt* is a very fine State Provincial Hospital. It was built in the year 1909; and, consequently, has the advantages of the most modern equipment and hygienic treatment that medical science can devise—and, as a school, is probably one of the best of its kind.

THE HOSPITAL

This contains 104 beds for Lying-in Women; 100 for the poor, and four for better class patients. If patients are quite unable to pay anything towards their maintenance, they are admitted free; otherwise there is a charge made to all. The terms are classified: First-class patients pay eight marks a day, exclusive of medical attendance; Second-class, five marks; and third and lowest class, three marks, inclusive of medical attendance. Wards for third-class patients contain four beds; for second-class, two beds; and first-class, one bed. They are sufficiently large, lofty, and have plenty of window space. Tiled

One small room is specially fitted up as a baptistry for the infants, to accommodate both the Roman Catholic or the Protestant faith.

The infants' bath and dressing-room is worth describing. In rows of four, porcelain baths are attached to two walls of the room, each furnished with hot and cold water taps, and every other convenience necessary for the washing of a baby. I was fortunate enough to be able to watch a pupil dressing a human atom of a few days' old! The method was one we might with advantage copy—and abolish for ever the *wrong* way of dressing an infant *on the knees*. A table is used for this purpose—previously padded with something soft and warm. The clothing is simplicity itself. Pins and needles are anathema! The little thing is first laid face downwards, with nothing on but a little woollen vest with long sleeves, reaching to the waist. A napkin—presumably of sterilised muslin or butter-cloth—followed by several other soft warm cloths; and then the child is turned over, and the napkin crossed over and wound round each little leg, serving the additional purpose of stockings for warmth; the cloths are

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