

apparently a doctor himself, was present, and also heard the *vagitus*, which was repeated four or five times. The child's movements were vigorous. The forceps were again applied, but the child was born asphyxiated. It weighed over 11 lb. Unfortunately, there does not appear to have been any post-mortem examination. Sippel, about eight years ago, reported a case of his own in which he undertook version. A pain occurred, and he was obliged to stop his manoeuvres without withdrawing his arm. Immediately two high-pitched notes were heard, clearly arising within the patient's abdomen. They precisely simulated the cries of an infant. But Sippel noted that at each cry air ran along his forearm engaged in turning, and he distinctly felt the vibrations of a fold of mucous membrane closely encircling his forearm. The current of air ran not from below, but from above downwards. The uterine contraction drove it out, and as it passed the slightly resistant fold the sound was produced. Possibly the *vagitus uterinus* may be explained in a similar way in most, if not all, other cases. There seems usually to be a flabby uterus on the one hand, and an obstetrical operation admitting air into its cavity on the other.

#### UNION OF MIDWIVES AND TRAINED MATERNITY NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

Dr. C. H. Langford, one of the Vice-Presidents of the T.M.N.A., kindly consented to give a Lecture on "Correct Breathing" at the offices, 33, Strand, W.C., on Wednesday, September 18th, at 6 p.m.

#### THE MATERNITY HOSPITAL, CONSTANTINOPLE.

Writing to the *Quarterly Record*—the organ of the Boston General Hospital Nurses' Association—from the Maternity Hospital, Constantinople, Matilda Dervishoglou says:—

"As once you wished to have more idea for our Maternity Hospital, I will in short try to give some information.

"Three years ago for a first time we had Maternity Hospital and Nursing School in Constantinople. The resident physician, Bessim Enmer Pasha, also the head of the Faculty, after thirty years' trial, succeeded to establish the hospital as soon as Hamid was sent away from Constantinople. Now our hospital is organised, for which I am grateful to our Pasha, for when I try to introduce the superiority of ways Americans have into my hospital, and how the wise American nurses battle with disease (which I found very hard with only untrained native girls to work with) he helps me, being always kind and courteous, considerate

and full of zeal and care whenever nursing interests are involved.

"His interest for the improvement of our Midwifery and Nursing School is great. For this Turkish nation must be proud that this noble philosopher from books of his own authorship teaches Midwifery.

"We found it very difficult to change their customs, which seems sin for this nation. They say 'What I have seen from my grandma, I must follow her way.' For example: they fear of leaving a confined woman, as they think she will be changed by devils if left alone. For this reason I had great difficulty to have babies' ward separate.

"Another custom is bandaging the baby's head very tight in order to make it round shape—to persuade to have babies' bare head was quite a triumph.

"Before we had the midwifery school, midwives used to give their right hands to their daughters as a professional diploma—that means the daughters had right to become midwives, just because their mothers were midwives, without any education or study of this line, and they could not even read and write. Among those midwives there was one who was proud to show a pocket knife unwashed for twenty years, as a result of her success. She said, 'This is what made me famous.'

"We have fourteen that we try to train with new ideas and make them as much as possible near perfect nurses, though they are very slow and unused to hospital life and to unselfish labour.

"Still I recognise it to be my mission not to look for defects and attempt to correct them by criticism, but to find out and to call forth all that is good and ennobling, as Mr. Allen said, 'The latent possibilities of the spirit of the nation must be used in the cause of the race.'

"I think it will interest you, when you hear us taking the history of a patient. When asked age, she answers, 'Must I know my age?' When father's name is inquired, the answer is, 'He is dead, and I don't remember his name now.'

"When we ask the period of her pregnancy, she says, 'When trees were blossoming.' 'When cotton was gathered from the field.' 'When her neighbour's house was burned,' etc., etc."

#### MATERNITY ENDOWMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

A maternity endowment scheme for New South Wales, providing free medical attendance and skilled nursing, has been proposed by the Government at an estimated cost of £60,000 annually. The scheme will be independent of the Federal baby bonus, and medical treatment and nursing will be compulsory. Patients will have a proper choice of doctors where the State pays the fees.

This scheme sounds like a real maternity benefit, and not as that designed through our National Insurance Act—one for subsidizing the father instead of the mother!

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