

The Midwife.

THE MOTHERS' HOSPITAL.

Clapton was *en fête* on Saturday last, when "Hackney's Princess," Princess Louise, accompanied by the Duke of Argyll, went down to open the Mothers' Hospital of the Salvation Army, the foundation stone of which was laid by her Royal Highness two years ago.

This is no new work to which the Army has set its hand. Already its Maternity Homes have a fine record of work done, both in the training of midwives, for the school is recognized by the Central Midwives' Board, and for the care not only of poor women in their hour of need, but also of those who, sinned against, and maybe sinning, have turned to the Army in their desperation to find a welcome extended to them, and helping hands held out to them, which will make the difficult path which they perform must tread less steep and less dreary. Those who are approaching the time of motherhood are received into Lorne House, given to the Army by Princess Louise, and from there are passed on to the Maternity Home. Three weeks after the birth of her child, the mother returns to Lorne House with her baby and there remains for four months, when experience proves the mother instinct is well established. Further, the experience of those working at Lorne House amongst the unmarried mothers is that the large majority leave it with hopes for better and purer things. Spiritual help—which is the only effectual help very often in such lives—has lifted them out of themselves, and they go out to fight for purity and goodness—and their children.

Surely this is fine work which the Army does. How different the prospects of these girls from those who go for a couple of weeks into a workhouse ward—where they associate with many women who hinder rather than help any desire to return to the straight path—and then return to face a world which has smiles and forgiveness for the male partner in sin, but stones for the woman, who may have been more sinned against than sinning.

The complete scheme which the Army has set itself to accomplish is the purchase of the freehold land, $2\frac{3}{4}$ acres, on which the new hospital stands, the provision of 150 beds, and full administrative and medical equipment for the work of the hospital, the district nursing work amongst the very poor of the neighbour-

hood, and the training school for nurses. This will cost £50,000, but, for the part already completed, £27,000 is needed, of which £22,000 had been given or promised before Saturday last.

The temporary frontage of the hospital consists of houses already existing, they are devoted to offices, reception rooms, and nurses' quarters, but it is when we pass down the colonnade behind the central block and through the administration block that we come to the hospital proper, which must surely serve as a model for any maternity hospital to be built in the near future, for though, as science advances, no doubt improvements will be possible, it is difficult at present to suggest in what direction they should be made in this perfectly planned hospital, unless it may be in the babies' bathrooms, which seem somewhat given over to baths for mothers.

The hospital authorities have had the advantage of the advice of Dr. Mackintosh, M.V.O., LL.D., Medical Superintendent of the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, who is well known as an able hospital administrator. The hospital consists of four bungalows linked together by a central corridor; each provides for twelve beds, the wards containing six, four and two respectively. The floors are of Canadian maple wood, the walls either a pleasant green shade, or salmon colour. Beside each bed, with its pure white quilt, is a dainty cot with dimity curtains—a most cosy nest for the new arrival. Pictures are not banished from the walls, among which, in each ward, are portraits of the late General and his much beloved wife.

The labour room, in which the floor is tessellated, has every convenience in the way of hot and cold water laid on over large basins, a sterilizer, and a most convenient labour bed of suitable height. This is fitted with a zinc foundation, so sagging is impossible, let down below the level of the framework in order to prevent the really comfortable mattress with which it is fitted from slipping. The whole is covered with a large red rubber mackintosh. At the bottom is a fitting to which a pulley can be attached, and, on the right of the footpiece, an enamelled post with hooks at different heights for the douche can.

Each ward, in addition to numerous other windows letting in an abundance of fresh air and light, has French windows opening on to

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)