

The Midwife.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITAL,

Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Marylebone Road, N.W., is one of the most famous of our maternity hospitals, and it is appropriate that it should take the lead, both in lengthening the usual—quite inadequate—term of training, and also of instituting a preliminary school for the pupils—a progressive step due to the initiative of the Matron, Miss Blomfield.

Those who were trained in a school where the whole practical and theoretical training was crammed into three months, will appreciate the greater order and system possible where the course is extended to six; instead of a raw pupil being at once given patients to nurse, and within her first few days being allowed to conduct a labour, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital she spends her first month in the preliminary training school. There, under the supervision

of a Sister-in-Charge, she attends lectures in elementary anatomy and physiology, receives instruction in sick-room cookery, and in such details of practical nursing as can be taught, before actual attendance on the mothers and infants.

Included in the equipment of the school are two life-sized, jointed dummies—so that bed-making, with a patient in bed, can be taught and practised. In the same way, the bathing of a baby is taught on a jointed doll—a fat, chubby counterfeit of the real article. When the writer visited the Home an examination in cooking had just been concluded, and the dishes on view were creditable alike to teacher and taught.

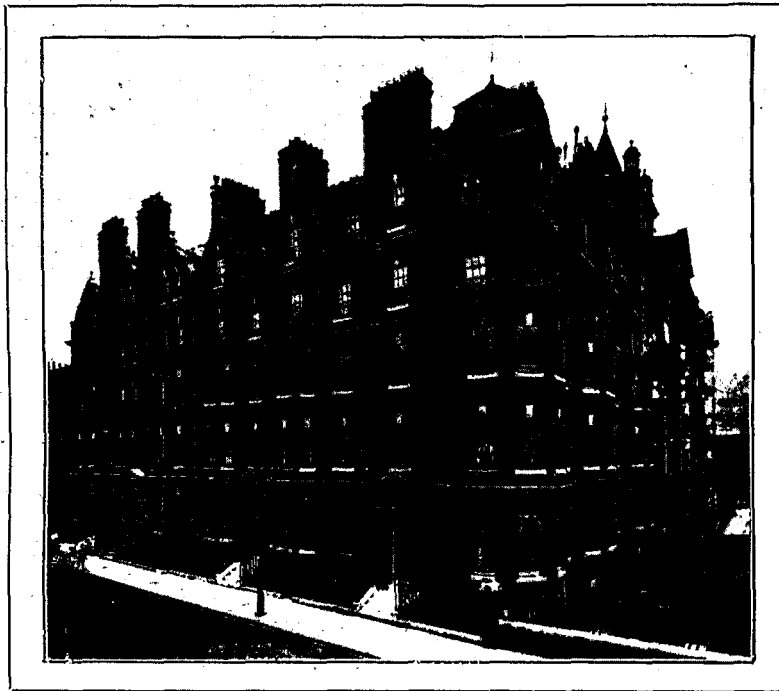
When the pupil has completed her month in the Preliminary Training School, she passes on to the lying-in wards of the hospital, where she does day nursing for two months, followed by one month's night duty. Her fifth month is spent in the labour wards—therefore the instruction she receives in the important and difficult duty of diagnosis comes at a time when she is most likely to benefit by it. Her sixth and last month is spent in the district, by which time she should have a very good insight into midwifery work, and be well-equipped to pass the examination of the Central Midwives' Board, and to meet the emergencies

of practice, when she is thrown on her own responsibility—to which end training is directed.

A department of the hospital's work, which has recently developed, is the examination of patients during pregnancy. It is only comparatively recently that any attempt has been made to ascertain the conditions which are likely to be met with during labour, by previous exam-

ination. At Queen Charlotte's, this is now done most systematically. A Sister has been appointed in charge of this department; patients, when they come to book, are interviewed, examinations made, and measurements taken, and the pupils are afforded an opportunity of observing and taking part in this interesting and necessary branch of their work.

It is small wonder that, with the development of the work on all sides, the extension of the building is felt to be an urgent necessity; and a scheme of enlargement is now determined on, which includes a new Out-patient Department, new dining-rooms for the nursing staff, a new lecture-room, new pathological laboratory, and



QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S NURSES' HOME.

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