

# The Midwife.

## GENERAL LYING-IN HOSPITAL, YORK ROAD, S.E.

### POST GRADUATE WEEK.

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On Wednesday, May 20th, the third day of the Post-Graduate week at York Road, the clinic met in the morning at the Parkes Sanitary Institute in the Buckingham Palace Road. Dr. Louis Parkes kindly conducted the party. He explained in detail the various modes of sanitation, and pointed out the improvements of the modern types. The sanitary drainage of a house, he said, was of the first importance for midwifery cases, and instanced two cases, one of a Royal lady and the other a lady of title, whose lying-in periods were prolonged and dangerous owing to unsuspected defective pipes in the near vicinity of the bedroom.

Dr. Louis Parkes spoke strongly on the dangers of public drinking fountains, which were responsible no doubt for the spreading of much disease, the most dangerous and horrible of which was syphilis. He recommended that the common drinking cup should be abolished, and that running water and the hands be substituted. He described the sources of infection from insects, and the process by which they were conveyed by the biting and non-biting varieties.

In the afternoon Dr. Fairbairn again lectured to the pupil midwives and clinic.

He described the management of the three stages of labour and what to do, and what to avoid doing. With regard to the all-important subject of the infants' eyes, he preferred dry sterile wool for the first cleansing. On the district where this could not always be obtained, wool might be soaked in perchloride 1 in 1000 provided it was wrung as dry as possible.

The management of the third stage called for as little interference as possible. It was impossible to go by the clock in determining when assistance should be given, but if there was no hæmorrhage the midwife could wait her legal two hours. When the placenta was not completely expressed it was sometimes difficult to determine if it had left the uterus, but it should be remembered in this difficulty that if the uterus were empty it would be rounder and harder, and would wobble about in the hand upon the placenta lying beneath. If the chorion were retained he would regard the probable consequences of removing it as far more serious than its retention, and in the great majority of cases it would come away quite naturally with the lochia.

He said he would never for that purpose himself put a finger into the uterus, nor allow anyone for whom he was responsible to do so. It was an ideal incubation chamber, and the introduction

of even half a spore would result in thousands in half-an-hour.

Dr. Fairbairn dwelt on the great importance of the midwife assuring herself of the condition of the perinæum after labour, and differentiating between a superficial and muscular tears. He did not regard the binder as of any clinical importance. A tight binder, on the contrary, was mischievous, as it caused flabbiness of the abdominal walls, so it was a fallacy to suppose that the figure was preserved by its application. If any, a many-tail was the best.

Next week we shall report the proceedings of Thursday and Friday.

### PRIZES.

There were sixteen entries for the examination with which the post graduate week concluded; and two prizes of books, value 7s. 6d. each, were awarded.

*Bracketed equal.*—Miss N. C. Holmes, who received her general training at the Sussex County Hospital, and was trained by Miss Hall in midwifery; Miss Wallburgh, trained in general nursing in Durban, S. Africa, and in midwifery at York Road Lying-in Hospital.

*Commended.*—Mrs. Smith and Miss Jessie Cole.

### CITY OF LONDON LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

On June 23rd, with the sympathy of the Queen and the direct patronage of Queen Alexandra, a concert will be held at the Mansion House, in aid of the funds of the City of London Lying-in Hospital, City Road E.C. The Lady Mayoress and the Ladies' Executive are organizing the function and issuing tickets.

### THE ROYAL MATERNITY CHARITY.

The 157th Annual Report of the Royal Maternity Charity shows that the good work done by this doyen of lying-in charities is still maintained at a high degree of efficiency, although there has been a large reduction in the number of patients attended, directly attributable to the National Insurance Act. The only qualifications for the gratuitous and skilled help given by the Charity are marriage and necessity, and many extremely poor mothers are helped through its agency.

The Charity is following along modern lines by as far as possible selecting present candidates for the post of midwife from amongst those who not only hold the certificate of the Central Midwives Board, but are also fully trained nurses. We regret to note that the Charity is in debt to its bankers to the extent of £4,429 6s. 11d. Surely this is a debt which the City of London might easily wipe out, and should not allow to hamper the work of one of the most excellent charities within its borders.

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