

The Midwife.

THE MATERNITY HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM.

One of the most delightful, up-to-date, and well arranged maternity hospitals is that in Love-day Street, Birmingham. Added to this the work is exceptionally good, as the hospital is in touch with midwives working in various centres throughout the city, and a large proportion of the cases—last year more than half—are abnormal. Those, therefore, who are thinking of obtaining their midwifery training would be wise to consider the

delivered. The note of refinement in evidence throughout the hospital dominates the wards which are spacious, airy and attractive. The cots of the babies are distinguished by pink and blue bows for boys and girls respectively, and the Matron who is a real baby lover must win the hearts of the mothers by her evident affection for their infants.

The labour room is well designed with an excellent light and every needful appliance. There are also small wards for specially serious cases. One patient we noticed in a small ward, who looked as if, but for the skilled care she had



A WARD IN THE BIRMINGHAM MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

opportunities afforded by this hospital in deciding upon a training school.

On entering the private room of the Matron, Miss H. R. Bett, one is at once struck by the amount of care and taste expended in its arrangement. The parquet floor is partially covered with a plain brown rug which harmonizes completely with the soft toned walls and blue curtains and chair covers. The Matron is fortunate in that when the furniture was selected a member of the Committee took pains to seek out old "pieces" rather than buying all modern furniture and the plain old oak table, and a Chippendale arm-chair give distinction to this charming room.

The arrangements of the hospital have been well thought out. There is a waiting ward for patients in whose cases complications are anticipated, besides the wards for the mothers when

received in the hospital, her case would not have ended as happily as it has done. It was a case of placenta prævia, and by the pallor of her face, which looked like carved ivory, one could estimate the severity of the ordeal she had passed through. It was a triumph alike for the medical and nursing staff not only that the mother's life was saved, but that the baby was also living.

In connection with the work of the Maternity Hospital an interesting development is that of the supervision of the babies born in the hospital, for the first year of life, by the Infant Health Committee.

This work began in April, 1913, when a number of ladies volunteered to visit once a fortnight all the infants born in the Maternity Hospital, living in certain districts of the City, until they are a year old. The patients in the hospital are visited once

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