

## The Midwife.

### THE CLAPHAM MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

The Clapham Maternity Hospital, 39, Jeffreys Road, S.W. must always have a very special interest for women, inasmuch as it was founded by women for women, and its medical staff has always been composed of women. The opening of the new hospital, on Friday, July 23rd, by Her Royal Highness, the Duchess of Vendôme, Princess of Belgium, was therefore a notable occasion.

The Princess on her arrival was received by the Chairman, Dr. Caroline Sturge, the Hon. Director and Visiting Surgeon, Dr. Annie McCall, and the Matron Miss E. Chippendale, and other members of the Committee, and the nursing staff, wearing favours of the Belgian colours, formed a guard of honour. At the entrance she paused and declared the building open. Dr. McCall then presented Her Royal Highness with a framed water colour drawing of the hospital, and a tiny child offered a lovely bouquet of red and white roses.

After the Princess had visited some of the ground floor wards the annual meeting, at which she presided, was held in a large empty ward on the third floor. The proceedings began with a short service conducted by Canon Allen Edwards, Chaplain to the hospital, and Dr. McCall then read letters of apology from friends of the institution unable to be present including Mrs. Garrett Fawcett, Lady White, Dr. Helen Webb, Dr. Jane Walker, Dr. Sarah Gray and others. It was a matter of great regret that Miss Marion Ritchie, the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, so intimately associated with the hospital for so many years, was, by medical advice, unable to be present, but it is hoped her health may shortly be re-established.

The Princess then expressed the very great pleasure it was to her to come to the opening of the new hospital. "It is," she said, "one of the

most interesting of good works. May God bless your work." She then called on Dr. Caroline Sturge, Chairman of the Hospital, to move the adoption of the annual report, which was in the hands of the meeting. This she did in an interesting speech, in which she gave a résumé of the history of the hospital. It was now, she said, 30 years since the Out-patient work was first started, and the need of beds began to be felt almost at once. At a meeting held on the 26th

January, 1889, the hat was sent round with the result that £50 was collected and two beds were installed at 2, Pentonville Road. The success of the enterprise soon warranted a larger scheme, and 74, Jeffreys Road was then taken. Finally encouraged by the promise of assistance from the King's Fund, the Committee decided on building a hospital designed for the purpose, but the accomplishment was delayed, first by the passing of the National Insurance Act, and the doubt as to how it would affect the In-patient departments of maternity hospitals, then by the strike in the building trade, but with the outbreak of war the strike came to an end, and by the end of 1914 the building was practically complete. Funds had been raised mainly through a generous anonymous

gift of £1,000 in 1912 and another £2,000 from the same source later. The King's Fund had given £3,500, and the anonymous friend or friends had lent the committee a further £3,000. Money was still needed. The committee would like to start the new hospital free from the debt of £3,000, and with an increased income for upkeep.

This was seconded by Dr. McCall, who reminded the meeting that there was no time when the saving of infant life was more important than at present. The objects of the hospital were to help married mothers, for whom there was not suitable accommodation in their own homes, to care for un-



MISS ELLEN CHIPPENDALE,  
MATRON, CLAPHAM MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

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