

married mothers with their first babies, and also it had a sphere of work as a training school for medical students, and for midwives and monthly nurses. The later training was gradually being merged into one, and with the six months shortly to be required by the Central Midwives Board, pupils would be able to receive three months' instruction in monthly nursing and three months in midwifery. Temperance work was another feature of the work of the hospital, and it was impressed upon the mothers that alcohol was unnecessary for them.

Dr. McCall stated that subscriptions at present amount to £159, and pleaded for increased regular and steady support. Other speakers were Dr. Isabella Macdonald, and Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson, one of the surgeons in charge of the Military Hospital, Endell Street, W.C., who said she received her midwifery training in the hospital, and amusingly described the "horrible time" she had when sent to a case for the first time alone. She was helped through by the patient, who assured her, "It will all come right, dearie; it will all come right. I've been through it ten times before." She further said that no one quite realized with what leaps and bounds the work of medical women was going ahead, partly because it was part of the great women's movement, partly because this terrible war had forced even the Government to use women's work, and, though we deplored the cause, we rejoiced in the fact that women were allowed to do work of which they were capable.

Lady Macdonnell proposed, and Dr. Lettice Bernard seconded a most cordial vote of thanks to the Princess for presiding, and in replying Her Royal Highness wished the hospital the greatest success. She referred also to the fact that thousands of nurses were caring for the sick and wounded in Belgium and France, and that British nurses were wanted.

The meeting concluded with three cheers for the King of the Belgians and another for the Princess, and those present then adjourned, first for tea, which was served at little tables in several empty wards, and then to go round the hospital.

The central block stands back from the road, and the main staircase directly faces it, the wards being arranged on three floors on either side. The hospital has accommodation for fifty patients, and the majority of the wards contain four beds, though some are larger. The red and white quilts and red screen covers, and the abundance of light make them very bright and cheerful. The windows, which are a feature, are divided into two sections which open outwards horizontally and simultaneously, and while affording free ingress of air they are constructed with the idea that it is impossible for anyone to get through them.

The labour rooms are very well arranged, the bed being fitted with narrow slats of wood, completely preventing sagging, which can be readily removed and cleaned after each case. Hot and cold water are laid on. There is a nursery for the babies, and they all sleep there at night, thus

permitting the mothers to have restful sleep. The roof of the hospital is flat, so the nurses can enjoy the fresh air during their off duty time, and it is possible also to sleep out of doors. The floors and walls of the building are fireproof, and there is also an outside iron staircase in case of fire.

The crockery for the use of each nurse in connection with the patients is marked with her number.

The hospital has its own laundry attached, and the soiled linen goes down from the wards daily.

We hope that the institution which has done such good work in the past, under difficult circumstances, has a useful and prosperous career before it in the charming new building.

Many of those trained in the school will be glad to have the accompanying picture of the Matron, Miss Ellen Chippendale, who received her professional training at the Leeds Union Infirmary.

M. B.

## THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

The monthly meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at Caxton House, Westminster, S.W., on Thursday, July 22nd. Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

On the recommendation of the Standing Committee the Board accepted certain drafting amendments which the Lords of the Council considered should be made in the new Rules submitted to them, providing for the extension of the period of training, and it was agreed that the Privy Council be so informed.

A letter was read from Dr. A. Stookes, one of the Board's examiners at the Manchester Centre, questioning the propriety of allowing a midwife to undertake intra-uterine manipulations, as suggested by one of the questions set at the examination of June 15th.

The Chairman's reply was read and approved.

Dr. Stookes in acknowledging the letter said he was of opinion that intra-uterine manipulation by midwives should not be encouraged. He considered in case of hæmorrhage that bimanual compression was safer.

In Liverpool midwifery was passing into the hands of midwives, 78 per cent. of the cases being conducted by them. He considered that midwives had too few opportunities for practical work in their training. They might be able to answer examination questions but the actual training had not improved. He instanced the case of one candidate who had only made two vaginal examinations during her training.

The Board decided to reply that they had carefully considered Dr. Stookes' letter and they considered that the words, "in great emergencies," guarded the question from the charge of encouraging unjustifiable interference.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)