

## The Midwife.

### THE MATERNITY HOSPITAL, YORK.

Almost under the shadow of the glorious Minster, in Ogleforth, one of the oldest quarters of the ancient city of York, the Maternity Hospital is doing excellent work for the mothers of the city and neighbourhood.

The hospital is located in two houses which have been adapted, and very conveniently, to form an institution of twelve beds. On entering it one is confronted by a wonderful oak staircase, black with age, which would be an ornament to any house and which at once gives it distinction. Under the guidance of the Matron, Miss Wishart—trained at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, in general nursing, and at the Royal Infirmary, Dundee, in midwifery—I recently had the pleasure of seeing the wards, and very bright and cheery they are; the walls white, and spick and span as Paripan and continual care can make them; the mothers happy and contented, and the babies each in his or her own little cot, with the exception of one mite who seemed to be thriving in the electric incubator. Another bonny boy of a few days old was a Belgian baby whose mother, though speaking little English, seemed thoroughly content with her surroundings. The father is also in this country, as, so far, he has not been passed for military service.

Most of the patients are in the large ward, but there is a smaller one containing two beds, and a well-equipped labour ward, with every requisite for normal and abnormal deliveries.

The standard of training at the hospital may be estimated by studying the lists of the examinations of the Central Midwives Board, in which the pupils of the York Maternity Hospital are almost invariably successful.

The staff, in addition to the Matron, consists of a Sister and five pupils. Ordinarily the pupils, in addition to their hospital experience, work in the surrounding district under medical practitioners, and the nurse of the York Dispensary, with which the hospital co-operates, and from which it receives some financial support. Just at present, however, owing to the disorganisation due to the war, the Sister supervises the greater part of the district work in addition to her duties in the hospital.

On enquiry as to the effect of the National Insurance Act on the institution, the Matron corroborated the experience of other hospitals; just at first there was a falling-off of in-patients, but now the admissions are up to the usual average.

The Baby Consultations form an important part of the Dispensary work, and the advice given to the mothers is highly appreciated by them, and the mortality of infants attending the Consultations compares favourably with that of the city generally, a proof of the value of the work. The

feeding of nursing and expectant mothers is also not overlooked amongst the schemes for their benefit; both the Baby Consultations and the Infants' Welfare Association being concerned with this important detail. As one heard from the very capable and courteous Matron of the work which is now being done, and which it is hoped to develop as soon as conditions again become normal, one realised more strongly than ever how important and valuable is the place in the community, of the small maternity hospitals, both in the care of the patients, the training of pupils, and the education of the mothers.

One word must be devoted to the Matron's sitting-room, which is most charming. The city of York has its full share—perhaps a larger share than most—of old furniture, and there is in this room, besides chairs belonging to bygone generations, a table which must surely make lovers of the work of craftsmen of olden days break the Tenth Commandment when they note the simplicity and beauty of form with which a master hand has endowed it.

M. B.

### CHILD WELFARE AND MOTHERCRAFT EXHIBITION.

An interesting Child Welfare and Mothercraft Exhibition is being held during the present week inclusive of Saturday, at the Town Hall, St. Alban's, from 2.30 to 8.30 p.m. The Exhibition has been arranged by a committee which includes such well known names as Dr. R. Murray Leslie, of the Women's Imperial Health Association; Dr. Eric Pritchard, Mrs. Wilson of the St. Marylebone Health Society; and Miss Williams, of the St. Pancras School for Mothers. The object of the Exhibition is to spread a knowledge of Mothercraft, whereby the mothers of this country shall be helped to rear healthy children, and it is intended that it shall be a permanent one moving from place to place.

The Exhibition at St. Alban's includes (1) models of rooms arranged by dirty and careless, and clean and careful mothers, expecting their confinements, arranged by Miss Haddon, Superintendent of the Bloomsbury Nursing Association, and Mrs. Buckle; (2) an artificial feeding exhibit; (3) consumption in children and how to prevent it, illustrated by posters and appliances; (4) a baby care exhibit, arranged by the South St. Pancras School for Mothers; (5) common sense hints for treatment of accidents; (6) model clothes made by Miss Syngé; (7) model of a day nursery; (8) a dental exhibit, arranged by Mr. George Thomson, and Dr. Sim Wallace; (9) Housewifery and Cooking arranged by Miss Dyer, King's College for Women; (10) A fly exhibit; (11) a Literature Stall, and (12) posters, charts, photographs and pictures.

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