

The Midwife.

POST GRADUATE WEEK.

YORK ROAD HOSPITAL, S.E.

MONDAY, JUNE 26TH.

The post graduate week at the York Road Lying-in Hospital, Lambeth, S.E., is an event which is eagerly looked forward to by the midwives who are fortunate enough to be able to attend it. This year the opening day celebrated the return to duty of its inspiring leader, Sister Olive, after an absence of three months, owing to illness.

The garden was charmingly laid out with gay plants in honour of her return, but owing to the unsettled nature of the weather it was not thought wise to follow the usual custom of an *al fresco* tea; it was served instead in the entrance hall.

Here the guests, who included many old pupils, were made welcome by the Matron, Miss E. Watkins, and by Sister Olive, with her enviable secret of making each visitor the "one and only." It was pleasant to see the affection and pleasure of former pupils which this return to their old training school evoked.

After tea, which was delightful from every point of view, the visitors were shown round the wards, and were allowed to admire the babies to their hearts' content. They were all of course *en fête*, one ward sporting large pink bows on the cots, another blue. There was a proud mother of twin boys, who certainly should receive the King's Bounty this year. There was a naughty baby who was stubbornly refusing his tea, and a little premature baby by the fire wearing its little wadded hood; and all sorts of other interesting and charming infants.

The first lecture was delivered by Sister Olive on the management of simple breech presentations. She said that to a skilled midwife these cases should be no more difficult than vertex presentations. One of the conditions which favoured this presentation was not alluded to in most text books, *i.e.*, the immaturity of the child. From statistics it had been shown that 41 per cent of these children weighed under 7 lb. She did not think much of the midwife who could not diagnose this presentation by abdominal palpation. In vaginal examination one of her axioms was "Never say it is a breech unless you have been able to put your finger into the anus." She considered a midwife very foolish who could mistake the anus for the mouth.

At York Road these patients were delivered in the lithotomy position. In delivering a breech one was always tempted to give a little help, but she strongly advised her hearers to exercise a masterly inactivity until the child was born as far as the umbilicus. She said that she had great faith in strong fundal pressure, and believed

that in a large number of cases no other assistance was needed.

She warned midwives against traction on the jaw, and said that although no evidence of injury might be apparent at the time, it was often evident at the time of dentition. Infants with white asphyxia, if no breath had been drawn, should be treated by mouth to mouth insufflation and Sylvester's method of artificial respiration.

TUESDAY, JUNE 27TH.

On Tuesday, June 27th, a clinical lecture was given by the house physician. The chart, which is a model of its kind, was used for the purpose, being a most comprehensive history of the mother and babe. On it are recorded: The involution stages of the uterus, temperature, pulse and respiration; the lochia, its importance as an indication of sepsis being mentioned; urine and bowels, the colostrum, or first milk. A great point was made by the lecturer of the presence of albumen in the urine and its dangers, it being closely associated with eclampsia; its cause was explained and treatment defined.

A case of face presentation was shown and described by demonstration with a pelvis and dummy foetus. To a primipara, where post partum hemorrhage had occurred, a rectal saline had been administered. The clinical lecture terminated by a description of an induced labour case.

It is hardly necessary to add that all the cases were doing well. This was followed by a most interesting demonstration of museum specimens in the Lecture Hall, conducted by Sister Olive, who is an admirable lecturer. In showing the uterus of a female infant, she stated that thousands of ova are present in the ovaries at birth; thus does Nature provide for the coming generations. Uteri of various sizes, healthy and unhealthy, were shown and described. A very fine wax model of a gravid uterus, showing the main blood vessels, was also well described in detail.

On Tuesday afternoon the members of the class divided into three sections, one visited Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Marylebone Road, N.W., one the Clapham Maternity Hospital, and the other the Jewish Maternity Hospital.

At Queen Charlotte's Hospital there was a fascinating array of new babies. Interest centred in the new home for district midwives at 13 and 14, Harcourt Street adjoining the hospital, which has been opened since the Post Graduate Class paid its visit last year, and which the Matron, Miss Alice Blomfield, showed her visitors with some pride. The sitting room of the Sister-in-Charge is charmingly coloured a soft tone of brown—a most effective background for the bright note introduced in chair covers and flowers. The pupils have a most comfortable sitting room

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)