

The Midwife.

CHINESE NURSES AND BABIES.

Nurses Near and Far, the journal of the Nurses' Missionary League, is an elevating little paper; it "keeps the peace" and takes no part in the questions which agitate the nursing profession in this terrestrial sphere—indeed, it might be called the "Mary" of nursing papers—so placid are its pages. This month it reports the good work of Chinese nurses at Hinghwa, and we are indebted to the Editor for the loan of the block showing them in attendance on three cunning little babies. Writing from Hinghwa, E. V. Krauss says:—

"The maternity cases are my joy; the wards have been much more popular this year. We celebrated New Year's Day by being up two nights with a lady from the country, who had twin girls, and was pretty bad; however, they are all, so far, doing well, for which we are very thankful. It is making us very busy, and though we have an excellent Chinese matron, she cannot do impossibilities and be up night and day without suffering from it. Imagine what it is in England, with one night nurse *at least* to a maternity ward with six beds; while here we have *no* night nurses, and accommodation for thirty maternity cases (though we have not had as many as that in yet by any manner of means).

In church this morning I sat beside three of 'my babies,' one two years old, one eight months, and the third one month. The mother of the latter came to church to-day for the first time since her baby was born. She had a very thankful heart, for God has given her a little son—the first of three. We are all so thankful for her, for her husband is not a Christian, though her mother is. We are glad to see several of the maternity ward cases coming to church. The people are beginning to appreciate what we are doing for the women, and we are gradually beginning to improve things and

to learn by experience what the people like. This has certainly been a year of blessing, for both mothers and babies have done so well. I am beginning to realise what an untold comfort it is to have two Chinese nurses, and one in training, who have learned maternity work.

"The opportunities for teaching here are endless, for if we have time to go quietly round and teach the people, they are willing and quick to learn; but if I am rushed with many calls they get discouraged, and go back to bed instead of coming to be taught at the usual time. Every afternoon the Biblewoman and some of the nurses are free to teach the patients simple verses and hymns,

and it is surprising how quickly some of them learn to repeat verses and hymns, and are able to join in the prayers night and morning.

"Sunday by Sunday the Nurses' Prayer Meeting is held in the Hospital, and I often think how similar they are to those we used to have in my training school, in a different language. There are the timid ones, and there are the more advanced Christians, as at home. There is also here a very decided 'Pro' and 'Junior Pro'

spirit, as at home. Please will you pray for the Chinese nurses specially? Nursing out here has not the same standing as at home, and people do not respect nurses out here for their calling, but look upon the work as the meanest work there is to be done."

Miss J. A. Clouting writes from Mienchuhhsien: "As doctor is away, there is no men's work going on and no operations. The women have been afraid to leave their homes because of the robbers, so numbers have been few. I have at last got a school-girl as sort of probationer. She helps me with the out and in-patients, and reads nursing books with me in Chinese, so I am hoping to lay a foundation. I have just started a course of maternity lectures—very simple—for the women Christians and others. A great many mothers die,



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