

The Midwife.

TRAINING SCHOOLS IN MIDWIFERY.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, E.C.

Nothing has proved more conclusively the efficacy of aseptic and antiseptic methods than the fact that the general hospitals of London, which years ago had to close their doors to maternity cases as in-patients, on account of the high mortality, are now fearlessly opening maternity wards with the best results to the patients and for the benefit of the community.



TEACHING STUDENTS TO WASH THE BABIES.

When "Elizabeth" was first opened at St. Bartholomew's Hospital as a maternity ward I gave some account of it in this Journal, and the other day I had the pleasure of seeing it in full working order.

The first thing to note was the medicine cupboard. There is no scrubbing of shelves for probationers nowadays, for all these are of plate glass, while on one shelf is a small locked glass cupboard for poisons. Exactly over the cupboard is an electric lamp, so that every precaution is taken in dealing with dangerous drugs.

The babies in their cots, each at the foot of his (or her) mother's bed, was the picture of contentment; not a sound was to be heard from any of the eight who slept most peacefully, as well brought up babies should do. The little cotton top blankets, with the name of the ward across

the top of each in red cross stitch, are very dainty. The training of the students in midwifery, and of the pupil midwives tends to approximate, for the latter attend the clinical lectures of the visiting physician, while the students under the supervision of Sister Elizabeth (Miss Harby) learn to bath the babies, to prepare and sterilise their food (if not nursed by their mothers), how to use the breast pump, and to perform other duties usually relegated to nurses.

There are many abnormal cases—for instance, two Caesarian sections and a craniotomy within a few days; and the labour ward is fitted up as a theatre. On remarking to Sister Elizabeth that it seemed to contain everything that could possibly be needed, I was told that every instrument in one large cupboard had been out for an operation earlier in the day. The serious operation cases are nursed in a small ward containing three beds, and the babies have a bath room of their own with a central china stand with depressions forming four bath tubs. Our illustration shows students receiving a lesson in bathing the babies, and they seem to enjoy the procedure.

The department is recognised as an approved school by the Central Midwives' Board, and those nurses are fortunate who receive this valuable training while still on the staff of

their Alma Mater; there must be keen competition for the opportunity. M. B.

In reference to the Local Government Board's schemes for maternity and infant welfare, Miss Rosalind Paget, in a letter to the *Times*, writes that "the quiet work, ante-natal as well as post-natal, that has been done by the certified midwife for so many years, was ignored by the promoters of the present campaign, but they are just beginning to realize that, unless they enlist the co-operation of the midwife, their efforts are doomed to failure."

Commander Sir Edward Nicholl, R.N.R., has given £50,000 for the erection of a nurses' home and maternity hospital in connection with the King Edward VII Hospital at Cardiff.

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