

QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITAL.

Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Marylebone, London, N.W., which is probably the best known maternity hospital in the Kingdom, has recently added to its usefulness by providing additional accommodation for its Ante-Natal Department, as well as opening a Baby Clinic.

THE ANTE-NATAL DEPARTMENT.

The Committee for some years past had hoped to provide a new Out-patient Department, where adequate provision could be made for the important and increasing ante-natal work, but the outbreak of war caused its postponement. The continued increase in the number of patients to be dealt with, however, caused the Committee to decide to erect a temporary building in connection with No. 12, Harcourt Street, a house adjoining, and belonging to, the hospital. This is now in satisfactory working order, in charge of Miss Frances M. Huxley, M.D., who has been appointed an additional member of the Medical Staff.

To this department all patients who have booked with the hospital, whether as in-patients, or with the district midwives, as out-patients, attend, and all are interviewed by a medical practitioner. All first cases are examined, and any others which appear likely to present any abnormal features. The urine of every patient is tested, and if any albumen is found, the patient is instructed to report herself periodically, and is kept under observation. Albuminuria is on the increase, and a possible cause mentioned by the Matron, Miss Alice Blomfield, is the considerable increase in the amount of meat eaten by the working classes, owing to better wages, and the consequent higher standard of living.

Veneral diseases are also brought under observation in this ante-natal clinic. In suspected cases, a swab is taken and if the diagnosis is confirmed the patient is advised to attend at the nearest hospital at which such diseases are treated, with the result that there may be considerable improvement in the mother's condition before the child is born. The importance of bringing women with child under the observation and treatment of medical practitioners can scarcely be over-estimated, and Queen Charlotte's Hospital is greatly to be congratulated on having undertaken this work. It is to be hoped that the public will recognise it by increased subscriptions to this useful charity, which will gladly be received by the Secretary, Mr. Arthur Watts.

The temporary Out-patient Hall will comfortably accommodate 80 women, and cubicles are provided in which they can, if necessary, undress in private before being seen by the physician. The Department includes a room for the Lady Almoner, as well as the physician's room which is furnished with two couches for examinations, basins with hot and cold water laid on, and the necessary glass cupboards, etc. The nursing staff consists of a Sister, a staff nurse and four pupils.

THE BABY CLINIC.

The Infant Consultation Centre (or Baby Clinic) is open one day a week, and is in charge of Miss Margaret Thackrah, M.D. This is quite a new development, so that it has only twice been open, but it is satisfactory that mothers now in the hospital announce their firm intention of bringing their babies up for inspection. The work is being carried out in conformity with the wishes of the Local Government Board, which, in its scheme of maternity and Child Welfare, attaches great importance to the care of young infants, and it is hoped that a substantial grant may be received from the Board towards the cost.

POST-GRADUATE WEEK FOR MIDWIVES.

We have pleasure in announcing that the fifth "Post-Graduate" week for midwives is to be held at the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, S.E., from May 21st to 25th. The announcement will stir happy memories of the delightful courses in previous years. The programme is a full and useful one. Names should be sent in as soon as possible to Sister Olive, Hon. Secretary. The subscription is 5s. for the course.

May 21st (Monday).—4 p.m., Reception by Matron and Staff; tea. 5 p.m., Lecture by Dr. Fairbairn.

May 22nd (Tuesday).—11 a.m., Clinic in Wards conducted by House Physician; Demonstration of Museum Specimens in Lecture Hall. 2 p.m., Meet at Hospital; York Road Infants' Clinic, or visit to Queen Charlotte's or Jewish Maternity. 6 p.m., Lecture by Sister French. 9 p.m., Lantern Lecture.

May 23rd (Wednesday).—11 a.m., Clinics on "The Baby," conducted by Ward Sisters. 3 p.m., Lecture by Professor Arthur Keith. 5 p.m., Dr. Fairbairn's Lecture to pupil-midwives, followed by Clinic on abnormal cases.

May 24th (Thursday).—11.30 a.m., Demonstrations in Milk Kitchen and Lecture Hall. 2.30 p.m., Meet at Hospital; Visits to Marylebone Infants' Clinic or the Medical Museum or the Sanitary Institute. 6 p.m., Lecture by Sister Olive.

May 25th (Friday).—11.30 a.m., Demonstrations in Milk Kitchen and Lecture Hall. 2 p.m., York Road Infants' Clinic. 6 p.m., Test Paper (optional), prizes given. 7.30 p.m., Lecture at Midwives' Institute on "Twilight Sleep" (tickets 6d. each).

Ante-Natal Clinic daily at 9 a.m. (numbers limited).

Dr. Walter Spencer Anderson Griffith, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., has been appointed as the representative of the Royal College of Surgeons on the Central Midwives' Board for one year from April 1st, 1917. Dr. Griffith has for many years been intimately associated with the teaching and examination of midwives, and comes to the Board, therefore, with a very practical knowledge of the work with which it deals.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)