

# The Midwife.

## POST GRADUATE WEEK.

### GENERAL LYING-IN-HOSPITAL, YORK ROAD, LAMBETH.

The Post Graduate week at the General Lying-In Hospital, York Road, opened on May 21st, with its customary delightful hospitality. The Matron and Sister Olive welcomed their guests in the entrance hall, where the tables were set for tea, the weather being too uncertain to have it in the garden as usual.

After tea the visitors were allowed to wander round the wards at will, and talk to the smiling mothers and admire their very fascinating babies. There was one proud mother with twin sons, "Jellicoe" and "Haig"; she observed that she thought she had done her "bit" for her country. She certainly had. Another mother with a single son, her first child, had her cup of happiness marred because his daddy could not see him, he being paralysed in a hospital in France, and "he can't write, you see."

The sweetest of the babies was motherless, the poor girl had died of eclampsia.

At 5 o'clock Dr. Fairbairn lectured on "Delayed Labour." It was, he said, a difficult subject, as there was great difference of opinion as to when interference became necessary. It was not the obvious cases which were the difficulty, but those in which the cause for delay was not clear. Those cases which only differed a *little* from the normal. In the vast majority of cases delay in the second stage was from inefficient power.

Sometimes it would happen that with a large child and a small pelvis the child would be born all right because the uterus was relatively strong.

Sometimes with narrowness of pelvis there was weakness of power; both factors came in to account for delay. It would depend on the observation of the midwife throughout labour as to the character of the pains, &c., to determine how much the delay was due to either or both of these causes.

Dr. Fairbairn referred to "Twilight Sleep," and said that in some cases of nervous patients it actually hastened labour, as it was well known that in nervous subjects the anxiety, worry and distress often frightened the pains away, and the quietude it produced actually hastened the labour. He said it should be remembered that any form of morphia given in the last stages when the head was low down would be likely to affect the child. As a working rule it should not be given from 4 to 6 hours before the expected birth.

### TUESDAY, MAY 22ND.

The second day started with the Ante-Natal Clinic at 9 a.m. Owing to limited accommodation only a small number of midwives could be admitted

but as it is held daily during the week, all in turn will be able to avail themselves of this valuable experience.

At 11 a.m. after a welcome cup of tea, the party divided into two companies, one going to the Clinic in the wards, conducted by the House Physician, and the other attending the Demonstration on Museum Specimens, in the lecture hall, conducted by Sister Olive.

Two interesting cases at the Clinic were an adherent placenta case and one of albuminuria of pregnancy. In the latter case there were three causes which might have accounted for albumen in the urine: Pressure from twin pregnancy, systolic murmur, and kidney trouble. As, after delivery, the albumen disappeared, it was determined as albuminuria of pregnancy.

Sister Olive's Demonstration was characterised by her usual attractive method of imparting instruction. She described the development of life from its very earliest beginnings. Her lecture, she suggested, should be called "The Wonders of Life."

With the aid of diagrams and specimens she traced the growth of the embryo and the foetus through the days, weeks, and months until full term.

In the afternoon the party again divided into two, half visiting Queen Charlotte's Hospital, where they had a most interesting time, and were hospitably entertained to tea. The other party went to the Jewish Maternity Home, and Infant Welfare, in Whitechapel, a special notice of which will appear in a future issue. At 6 p.m., the midwives again assembled in the lecture room at York Road to listen to a lecture from Sister French on the care of baby after the tenth day.

She said it was now rather a burning question as to who should be responsible for ante-natal care, and the after-care of babies. She hoped midwives would try to work in sympathy with other organisations. It was a great loss to infant clinics if they did not receive any report from the midwives, and much time was wasted in consequence, in finding out the history of the baby.

Sister French gave many valuable suggestions for the hand-feeding of infants, about which, as she said, so much controversy rages.

### POUND DAY.

A pound day is being organised by the Ladies' Committee and the Staff of the Hospital, on Thursday, June 7th, at the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, S.E. A pound in money, a pound of coppers, pounds of groceries such as tea, coffee, cocoa, sugar, jam, rice, maize flour, soap, soda, fruits, potatoes, beans and peas, all will be welcome. No donation is too small to be gratefully received. Funds are low and the cupboard bare.

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