

The Midwife.

IDEALS IN THE TEACHING OF MIDWIFERY.

(Continued from page 410.)

MAY 30TH.

VISIT TO INFANTS' WELFARE CENTRE.

Dr. Eric Pritchard gave a most interesting clinic on the early training of infants during the first ten days of life, seeing how so many difficulties which arise later are due to mismanagement during that time, and the great responsibility of the monthly nurse in their training. Tea was most kindly provided afterwards for those attending the clinic.

DEMONSTRATION OF TEACHING BY LONDON MIDWIVES.

THE EXAMINATION OF PREGNANCY (26 WEEKS).

Sister Dare, Queen Charlotte's Hospital, after going through the usual routine of examination, laid great emphasis upon the importance of finding out the relation between the head and the pelvis by abdominal palpation, saying that too much was left to vaginal examination, thereby increasing risk of sepsis to patient, and possible infection of examiner; that the thirty-sixth week was the latest date to allow the pregnancy to advance before examining the patient upon the point, and that many difficult cases occurred owing to its omission.

THE EXAMINATION OF PREGNANCY (36 WEEKS).

Miss Gration, Jewish Maternity Hospital, laid stress upon the importance of making as careful examination in the case of multiparae as primiparae, and that difficulties during labour sometimes arose owing to points in the history of previous labours not being fully appreciated and previous normal labours being misleading, for example presence of some contraction of the pelvis overlooked, previous labours being normal because the babies were small.

If any contraction is suspected the patient must be carefully watched and examined every fortnight after the thirty-second week.

DEMONSTRATION ON BABY FEEDING.

Sister French, in a Demonstration on Baby Feeding, laid emphasis upon grounding the pupils in the general principles of baby feeding, and that the food must be adapted to the individual infant, it was impossible to adhere to hard-and-fast rules as to quality and quantities at certain ages. It seemed best to found the teaching on modified cow's milk. The importance of breast feeding and of the colostrum must be pointed out.

Human and cow's milk were compared and the values and purposes of the elements in milk taught.

Having learnt how to modify cow's milk, to consider points relative to the infant's digestive capacities, and to remember that in making up a diet its nutritional value had sometimes to be sacrificed in dealing with feeble digestive powers.

The question of the action of germs on milk and how to deal with them must be carefully considered. The pupil must herself practise experiments in modifying milk and making up diets.

THE USE OF MATERIAL IN TEACHING.

Miss M. O. Haydon stated that when giving a class she was busy throughout, and she found from experience that pupils attend much better, and their interest is better aroused, if they are using their eyes while listening. The blackboard and brightly-coloured chalks should be used much more. It was not at all necessary to make anatomically correct drawings; but if pupils could visualise what they were learning it was a great aid to memory and understanding. They should learn to draw from specimens, not only from pictures.

THE APPRECIATION OF THEIR OWN AND THE LATIN LANGUAGE.

All difficult names should be written on the board, using different coloured chalks where mistakes are usually made; also make use of simple illustrations of the meanings of terms which the pupil can appreciate and remember.

In explaining the imaginary planes of the pelvis, cut out cards according to shape with measurements written on them.

To illustrate the parturient canal and the muscles of the pelvic floor, Miss Haydon showed the audience a pattern made out of material with the muscles painted upon it. Also a knitted pattern of the uterus and cervical canal, and a small doll to demonstrate how the canal is "drawn up" during labour. She laid stress upon more use being made of the dummy and pelvis, and the living baby in demonstration.

THE VALUE OF OBSERVATION.

The value of observation in the management of the normal and sick baby during the first ten days was the subject of an illuminating and suggestive paper by Dr. Charles Cameron.

A most interesting visit was paid to the Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, the Matron showing the visitors over the wards, milk kitchen, and research laboratory.

CLINIC AT CITY ROAD HOSPITAL.

After showing some interesting slides under the microscope, and museum specimens, Mr. Comyns Berkeley gave an interesting clinic in the wards upon the relation between accidental hæmorrhage and the toxæmia of pregnancy, dealing also with some of the theories of the origin of the toxæmia of pregnancy. Five cases were seen, and their

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