

The Midwife.

HAMMERSMITH MUNICIPAL MATERNITY HOME.

The new Municipal Maternity Home at Parkside, Hammersmith, although it has not been yet formally opened, is now in working order, and ten out of the thirty beds are already occupied. The fine, spacious house, standing in three-and-a-half acres of grounds, is rent free for three years, by the generosity of the Mayor, whose property it is. The long drive by which the house is approached boasts of a fine avenue of chestnut trees, and there are charming pleasure grounds and kitchen gardens.

The hospital is intended for poor women of the Borough, who pay on a sliding scale from 30s. for the fortnight. As this sum equals the maternity benefit the advantages of the home are within the reach of most who desire them.

The matron, Miss Alice Edington, received us most kindly on the occasion of our visit, and we were able to investigate the charming home to our heart's content.

First came the receiving ward which, although small, had the most made of its accommodation. Here the patients are bathed and clad in hospital linen, and taken straight away to the very up-to-date labour ward. Every latest sanitary and aseptic appliance has found its way into this ward; its walls are enamelled in white, the light, both natural and artificial, is excellent, and it is in every way adapted to its purpose. The dressing gowns for patients while in this ward are of a pattern designed by the Matron—very full with a broad yoke, and buttoning up the back, so that unsightliness of the figure is not apparent. The wards containing various numbers of beds (six being the maximum), are cheerful and all very sunny; indeed, sun seemed the prevailing feature of the house. The Matron has a passion for fresh air and sunshine, and told us that in a former similar position, she has had patients wheeled straight from the labour ward on to the verandah.

Of course, we made the acquaintance of the babies, especially the latest arrival (born that morning), who appeared deeply to resent his entry into this troublesome world, and was giving voice to his grievance.

Hanging on the wall in each ward is a daintily designed copy of *Infant Welfare Suggestions and Hints to Mothers*. This struck us as a particularly good notion, as the women, for perhaps the only time in their lives, have a little leisure in which to digest the excellent advice given. The ward for ten sick children is not yet occupied, although the pretty white cots with green coverlets are ready and waiting for the little patients. The room selected for this purpose was originally the drawing room, and is most desirable. Here, again, the sun was streaming in from the fine

conservatory, which is accessible to the ward by a short flight of steps, which Miss Edington has wisely protected with a wicket gate.

The nurses' sitting room is cosy and tastefully furnished, and the particularly pretty blue Axminster carpet adds not a little to its attraction.

The nurses' and future pupils' bedrooms are suitably fitted, and the white enamelled furniture gives them a fresh and dainty appearance.

Downstairs, in the extensive basements, in addition to the nurses' dining-room (which, by the way, boasts of an Adam's sideboard) are large workmanlike kitchens, an ample storing accommodation, and the roomy wine cellar has been transformed into a depository for the clothes of the patients. All very delightful, but in these days of domestic difficulties, the problem of cleaning and serving this large establishment must be a difficult one.

The Matron kindly showed us the gardens, and hospitably entertained us with raspberries and blackberries which were still to be found on the bushes. The cat, Professor Gallabite, was kind enough to accompany us. We carried away the very nearly last rose of summer.

On taking our leave at the hall door we were introduced by Matron to a very young visitor aged three weeks. She introduced him to us as "the son of a hero." His young mother blushed as the Matron described how the baby's father (himself only 22) had saved seventeen lives in the Dardanelles, the last being that of his captain.

A feature of this new enterprise will be the offer of free training in midwifery to trained nurses. The entrance fee of £5 5s. will be inclusive of the examination fee. Only four pupils can be taken at one time, and after their four months' course they will be expected to serve the Council for a further two months. The Matron is, of course, flooded with applications, which will be taken strictly in rotation.

Though the Central Midwives' Board has not yet given recognition to the Hospital as a training centre, there is every hope that it will shortly do so.

The present staff consists of six including the Matron and her assistant. Miss Edington has specialised in midwifery. She received her general training at the Mile End Infirmary, and afterwards became a Queen's Nurse, for which branch of the profession she still has a great affection. Previously to her present post she held a similar one at St. Mary's Hostel, Croydon.

PENAL CASES.

At the Special Meeting of the Board to consider charges against certified midwives, Midwife Susan Barrett (No. 19780) and Midwife Martha Hewitt were struck off the Roll, also Midwife Mary Elizabeth McGrath (No. 937), on an interim report. Midwife Mary Ann Glover (No. 2933) was severely censured.

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