

The Midwife.

THE BRITISH HOSPITAL FOR MOTHERS AND BABIES.

It required some faith to organise an outdoor function on the 16th of October, on the lines of a May-Day festivity, yet the organisers of the ceremonial which accompanied the laying of the foundation stone of the new British Hospital for Mothers and Babies, Samuel Street, Woolwich, by its President, H.R.H. Princess Christian, on Saturday last, made the venture, and their faith in "St. Luke's little summer" was justified. The afternoon was ideal for the occasion—radiant and balmy—and the white-frosted children carrying coloured banners—with hair ribbons, sashes, and purses of blue, pink, green, cerise, or yellow to match the banners, and carrying green boughs and flowers, made a pretty picture as one entered the grounds, quite in keeping with the occasion.

It will be remembered that the hospital, of which Miss Alice Gregory is Hon. Secretary, was established as the Home for Mothers and Babies in Wood Street, Woolwich, where the work is still carried on, and that on amalgamation with the British Lying-in Hospital, Endell Street, in 1914, it adopted the name of the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies. Its special object is the training of educated women as district midwives. Its course for women without previous training is twelve months instead of the six required by the Central Midwives Board, and for trained nurses six instead of four. For those who aspire to teaching posts the course advised is two years.

Punctually at 3.15 the Princess, attended by Miss Emily Loch and Mr. Hugo Wemyss arrived, and, accompanied by members of the Reception Committee, the Mayor and Mayoress of Woolwich,

the Town Clerk, the Matron, Mrs. Parnell, and the Hon. Secretary, Miss Alice Gregory, proceeded to the platform, where the stone hung suspended over its bed of mortar.

The proceedings began very auspiciously by the statement made by Sir Richard Temple that Her Royal Highness authorised him to announce that she had received for the building

fund £8,000 from the Charity Commissioners, and £20,000 from the Ministry of Health.

A short service was then conducted by the Bishop of Woolwich (Dr. Hough) vested in cope and mitre, and accompanied by acolytes, choir, and clergy. The stone having been blessed and censed, was laid by H.R.H. Princess Christian with the following words:

"In the Faith of Jesus Christ we place this Stone in the Name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.—Amen." On the stone was inscribed: "To the Glory of God, and in Good Hope, this stone was laid on October 16th, 1920, by Her Royal Highness Princess Christian."

Then followed more prayers, including one for the departed benefactors, and another for the nurses, the hymn, "O God our help in ages past," and the Benediction; after which came the presentation of purses.

On the platform a piece of blue cloth was laid before the Princess, to the left stood Captain Hawkes, who fought in Gallipoli—where men were heroes all—bearing a banner of purple and gold on which were inscribed the words:—"In grateful memory of Robert Gregory, Charles Cullingworth, Charles E. Escreet, Julie Sterling, George Bishop, Evelyn Walter, benefactors."

It was the prettiest sight to see the children marshalled under their different banners, go up to the platform and lay their gay little money bags at the feet of the smiling Princess—the tiny



PRESENTATION OF PURSES TO H.R.H. PRINCESS CHRISTIAN.

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