

## The Midwife.

### POST-GRADUATE WEEK AT YORK ROAD.

Last week we gave an account of the opening session of the Post-Graduate Week at the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, Lambeth, on Monday, May 23rd.

Throughout the week, the mornings were devoted to clinics in hospital, and the ante-natal department was also open each morning to a limited number.

#### TUESDAY, MAY 24TH.

On Tuesday morning, Mr. Richardson gave a very interesting clinic on abnormal cases, and had an excellent attendance. The afternoon was given up to visits. One party attended the Burroughs Wellcome Museum in Wigmore Street, and found much that was quaint and interesting; a small party attended the York Road Infants' Clinic; and a third visited the Babies of the Empire Mothercraft Training Centre, 29, Trebovir Road, Earl's Court, where they were much impressed with the happy mothers and babies. Miss Liddiatt, the Matron, received them very kindly, and gave a delightful summary of the aims and methods employed in the Centre. They found all the babies on the balcony enjoying the fresh air and sunshine, as babies should do on a summer's day. At 6 p.m., Dr. Jewesbury gave a most interesting and exhaustive lecture on the management of breast-feeding and the difficulties met with. He considered active tuberculosis practically the only cause for not breast-feeding a baby, and that on account of the risk of infection from the mother's breath. He emphasised the importance of ante-natal care in improving the shape and condition of the nipples, and in promoting a good milk supply by stimulation of the breasts both before and after the birth of the baby. Variety in the diet of the nursing mother was important, and it should include an abundance of fluids—water in particular; but the diet need not be excessive.

Dr. Jewesbury exhibited some wonderful charts in which the babies' weight shewed an increase in direct relation to the establishment of the breast milk. In one specially interesting case the child had been weaned for seven weeks, but lactation was successfully re-established in the Home at Trebovir Road. Thereafter, the mother entirely breast-fed the child for nine months. Another fascinating case was that of a mother with an abundant milk supply, who had fed her own baby, and also given a good start to fifteen others.

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 25TH.

The eleven o'clock clinics were devoted to the baby, and drew large and interested classes. Professor McIlroy in the afternoon gave a most interesting lecture touching some of the problems closely connected with midwifery, and at present

agitating the medical world and the lay public. She gave her own experience of the use of morphia in labour at Constantinople. She had no maternal or foetal deaths and no sepsis. Both her manner of delivery and her charming personality delighted her audience.

At six p.m., Dr. Fairbairn gave his postponed lecture on "The Management of Delayed Labour on Physiological Lines" in his usual happy manner, and remarked he had no wish to prophesy but he foresaw the time when normal labours would be left entirely in the hands of midwives who would call in medical aid when necessary. He emphasised the emotional factor as a cause of delay and the importance of the ability of the midwife to inspire confidence in her patient. Fatigue also played an important part as an inhibitor of good uterine action and the right use of sedatives needed to be understood. The rare causes of delay, abnormal lies, misfits, &c., were in a great measure weeded out by good ante-natal work, and, in any case, should be diagnosed early and medical assistance obtained.

#### THURSDAY, MAY 26TH.

On Thursday morning, the Post-Graduates attended and enjoyed Dr. Roy's weekly clinic for pupil midwives. In the afternoon one party visited the City Road Maternity Hospital where they were welcomed by the Matron, shown round the hospital, and afterwards attended Dr. Owen's Clinic.

Another party attended Dr. Eric Pritchard's Clinic in Marylebone and spent an interesting and profitable afternoon.

The third party visited the British Mothers' and Babies' Hospital at Woolwich. They were warmly welcomed by Mrs. Parnell, the Matron and the Sisters, and like all visitors, were impressed by the delightful atmosphere of the hospital. In the course of an interesting tour round the wards and out-patient department the visitors saw the system of teaching demonstrated. They were then taken to the new Home, in process of erection.

Tea was most hospitably provided at each of these visits and warm thanks accorded to the hosts and hostesses for a most pleasant time.

In the evening a large number attended Mr. Richardson's lecture on "Ante-Natal and Intra-Natal Death of the Fœtus." A very clear and thoughtful analysis was made of the causes under both headings and Mr. Richardson pointed out how many of these were avoidable with good ante-natal care.

#### FRIDAY, MAY 27TH.

The last day of the session arrived too quickly for many of the visitors. They turned up with undiminished vigour at all the clinics. In the afternoon a large number attended Dr. Stebbings' interesting clinical lecture at Lambeth Infirmary.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)