

The Midwife.

THE MIDWIFE: HER BOOK.

"The Midwife: Her Book," edited by Miss Alice Gregory, and written by the three founders of the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies, Woolwich—Mrs. Leila Parnell (Matron), Miss Alice Gregory (Hon. Secretary), and Miss Maud Cashmore (Sister Superintendent)—is a book which is out of the common. It is, as the preface tells us, in no sense a text-book of midwifery, but it is the outcome of the experience of three people who have spent many long years in the practice of district midwifery, and of preparing others to do the same, and it includes articles by one or two of their pupils. From its human interest it will appeal to a much wider circle of readers than midwives and nurses only.

In the first chapter is published a record drawn from the archives of St. Paul's Cathedral, for, of old, all London midwives had to take an oath before either the Dean of St. Paul's or the Bishop of London, pledging themselves to obey certain instructions contained in an old manuscript—so old, indeed, that in some places the words cannot be deciphered. Nevertheless, this licence, issued by the Commissary-General to the Worshipful the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, London, to one Sarah Keymer, within the jurisdiction of the Church of St. Paul, is full of wise instruction and advice. Thus:—

"To Sarah Keymer . . . Greeting. Whereas by due examination of divers honest and discreet women we have found you, the said Sarah Keymer, apt, able and expert to use and exercise your office, business, and function of a midwife, we therefore by our authority aforesaid, do admit you thereunto and give unto you full power and licence to occupy and exercise the said office, business, and function of a midwife within the peculiar jurisdiction aforesaid, with the best judgment, care, and diligence that you may or can in that behalf both to poor and rich . . . according to your oath therefrom made and given, as following, viz: First you shall be diligent, faithful, and ready to help every woman travailling with child, as well the poor as the rich, and shall not then forsake the poor woman and babe for to go to the rich. Item, you shall neither cause, nor suffer (as far as in you lies) any woman to name or put any other father to the child, but only him who is the true father thereof indeed. Item, you shall not suffer any woman to pretend, feign, or surmise herself to be delivered of child who is not so indeed. Item, you shall not suffer any child to be murdered, maimed, or otherwise hurt, as much as you may; and so often as you shall (? perceive) any anger or jeopardy likely to be or ensue either in the woman or the child, in each case, as you shall doubt what may happen thereon, you shall then forthwith in due time, send for other midwives and women expert in that faculty, and use their advice and counsel in that

behalf. Item, you shall not in any wise use or exercise any manner of witchcraft, charm or crazy, invocation, or other prayers than such as may stand with God's Laws and the King's."

There are ten other such Items which the midwife was enjoined to obey.

The book, which is both grave and gay, is published by Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton, 1, Bedford Street, London, W.C. 2, price 7s. 6d.

TALCUM CLEAVER.

No pains can be too great to secure a safe dusting powder for a baby's skin, and this is to be found in Talcum Cleaver, which is sterilized as part of the process of producing it. This is extremely important, as cases have been recorded in which a baby's skin has been infected with disease owing to a contaminated dusting powder. The germ-proofed patent refillable tin is also attractive and practical. Cleaver's Original Terebene Soap is renowned for its antiseptic and deodorizing properties, and has the further advantage of a very agreeable odour.

THE LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE MIDWIVES' ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the Leicester and Leicestershire Midwives' Association, of which Miss Pell Smith is Chairman, was held on March 22nd, when Dr. Millard was in the Chair, and Mrs. Rudd, junr., gave a most interesting address, urging that the people who get the best out of others are those who look for the best and expect the best. Another speaker who gave helpful advice was Dr. Braithwaite.

BABY CLOTHES.

Just a little bundle of baby clothes, such as many a mother makes, as she sits and smiles to herself as she envisages the babe, so close to her heart, clad in the dainty garments; yet what a poignant interest is theirs. They were designed for a prince of the House of Tudor, for the signs gave ground to the hope that Mary I of England would bear to her husband, Philip of Spain, a child who would in due time ascend the throne of these Realms. Had this been the case, would he, we wonder, have held their honour as high as did Queen Elizabeth, who succeeded in his default, by whom, when a princess, these little garments were fashioned.

It was not life, but death, which called to Queen Mary I, and the signs she mistook for it were, in reality, signs of the mortal illness to which she succumbed. Now the little garments, tokens of a Queen's hopes and a Queen's disappointment, are to come under the hammer at Christie's on May 3rd, in the sale of Earl Brownlow's collection. They are of pathetic interest as well as of historical importance.

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