

The Midwife.

A CLEVER IMPROVISATION.

By HELEN HANKINS, R.N., *St. Joseph, Missouri.*

It was a breech delivery and in spite of hard pains and very splendid effort on the part of the mother, the breech would not come down. The mother's age contributed to the rigidity of too small maternal parts. When the baby's left leg was finally brought down it was discovered that the right leg was extended upward across the chest with the foot about the neck. This was brought down with considerable difficulty and the child delivered.

The right femur had sustained a fracture, about midway, and it was the proper care of this which presented a real problem to the doctor and nurse. The physician wished to place the leg in Buck's extension. How to do this, to keep the parts in position, to avoid unnecessary motion, and yet not hinder the child's normal development, was the question.

An ordinary tea table on wheels was utilized for a bed. A frame was built about the top of the table on uprights about eight inches high. Strips of wood, two by two, were used. On the foot of this frame, a little to the right of the center, was placed an inch and a half pulley. Adhesive was placed about the leg in much the same manner as if the patient had been an adult, the cord was passed over the pulley and weights attached to give traction.

For decorative purposes, the frame was covered with blue mull and dotted swiss. The great advantage of the tea cart came in transporting the baby from the nursery to the mother's room. At nursing time, the mother moved to the edge of the bed, the cart was brought close alongside, and the baby was able to nurse without being moved or disturbing the dressings in the least.

Some weeks after dismissal, an X-ray showed perfect alignment and the results obtained have proven entirely satisfactory.—*American Journal of Nursing.*

ADVANCED LECTURES ON INFANT CARE.

The first half of a Course of Advanced Lectures on Infant Care, for Infant Welfare Workers, Teachers, Mothers, &c., is now being given in the Lecture Hall at Carnegie House, 117, Piccadilly, W., on Monday Evenings, up to and including February 26th, from 6 to 7 p.m. Lecturer, Dr. H. C. Cameron, Physician, Children's Department, Guy's Hospital.

The second half of the Course will be given at the Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, S.W., from Monday, March 5th, to April 23rd inclusive, omitting April 2nd and 9th. Lecturer, Dr. Eric Pritchard, Medical Director.

Tickets for the whole course, 8s. 6d.; single lectures, 1s. 3d. Apply Miss Elsie Reed, Secretary, National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, 117, Piccadilly, W. 1.

TEACHERS INSTRUCTION COURSE.

An interesting course of lectures for teachers of midwifery, from January 29th to February 3rd inclusive, has been organised by the Midwives Institute. The majority of the lectures including the inaugural meeting, on "The Aims of the Course," to be held in the Royal Society of Arts Hall, 18, John Street, W.C.1, will be open to any certified midwife. Tickets 2s. 6d. each. Apply Miss C. L. Melly, Midwives Institute, 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

THE THRESHOLD OF MOTHERHOOD.

"The Threshold of Motherhood," by Mr. R. Douglas Howat, L.R.C.P. (Edin.), L.R.C.S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P.S. (Glasgow), published by Maclehose, Jackson & Co., Publishers to the University, Glasgow, is designed to be a handbook for the pregnant woman.

The author, in his preface, points out that "there are many excellent text-books of midwifery for students, doctors, and nurses, but few if any exist for the exclusive use of the most important person—the patient.

"To-day is the Day of Enlightenment in all things sexual, and such is as it should be. The Mohammedan conceptions of woman's estate, adhered to throughout the Victorian age, have died a natural death. To-day it is generally accepted, perhaps grudgingly enough by many, that woman is the equal of man. She enters politics, reads for the bar, sits on juries, and fills countless other highly responsible positions. Yet the average pregnant woman is surprisingly ignorant concerning the circumstances attending her present and future state. In this book, an attempt has been made to explain the various phenomena which occur during the successive stages of a normal pregnancy and those functional disturbances which are likely to occur. It has been the writer's object to avoid all unnecessary technicalities."

MIDWIVES IN VIENNA.

Last week we reported that the midwives of Vienna had demonstrated, demanding a State minimum subsistence allowance, old age pensions, and protection against quacks.

This spirited action, combined with that of the midwives of Nether Austria, has been immediately effective. The demonstration at the town hall was followed, the *Times* correspondent reports, by a march round the House of Parliament, resulting in their representatives being received by the Federal Chancellor and a number of leading party men. They gained their demand that they shall be guaranteed a minimum subsistence allowance and old age pensions. We congratulate them.

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