

# The Midwife.

## "THE MIDWIFE: HER BOOK."

In "The Midwife: Her Book," edited by Miss Alice Gregory (Hon. Secretary of the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies, Woolwich), there are many stories of mean streets. Here is one:—

### CRESCENT STREET.

In Crescent Street (the street of furnished rooms), they are always the people who do not really belong there; they have only come because times were bad, and are just waiting "till I get over this" to get a few things together and have a place of their own again. They like to be praised, and if the table has been wiped over one day and is praised a little, the next day it will have been scrubbed; and it is the same with the floor and windows—and they like to have good manners. "Why don't you say, Yes, thank you, Nurse? What I can see of it, Sarah, thank you don't come in nowheres with you." "I did say thank you, didn't I, Nurse (she is forty-two); Nurse'll tell you herself I said thank you."

Her voice was hoarse and always on one note; she had a thin bony face and blue eyes that were sometimes full of amusement, but at anything unknown that had a vague fear lurking behind it they grew round like saucers and her mouth opened into a silent Oh! and she was quiet for a little while.

She paid her one shilling week by week, and had it put down on a card, which she never could bear to be out of her sight. "Paid 12s. 6d. all the other times, I did; paid it all up; p'raps at the end she'd say, 'Here's sixpence back for you to get something for the baby.'"

The little man with dusty clothes and boots and rings in his ears came in to show his insurance card and to explain his anxiety about it. "He says we'll get the money all right, but it's being unscholarly you understand me; it's not being able to put my name; but he spoke very high of you, Nurse," and when I asked how that was, wondering if I had known him when I was alive before—"he says it's that paper you wrote—you understand me; he says it's that si'niture wot done it."

The baby, who was not wanted, was the centre of everything. "He seems to be longing for something—thought it was a fresh oyster, we did; his father 'd gone out to get 'im one early, but I said best wait till you come . . ."

My thoughts were not allowed to wander from the room. "Look, Nurse! Nurse, look! You ain't a-lookin' at 'im, 'e ain't 'alf a laughing." I suppose, Georgie, you are as wonderful as all those other things. "This sky, and the light, this body, and the life and the mind." I know you are really. I was feeling a little tired of you just then.

S. W.

## CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

### EXAMINATION PAPER.

August 1st, 1923. From 2-5 p.m.

(Candidates are advised to answer all the questions).

1. Describe the mechanism by which the placenta is separated and expelled in the absence of any interference by the midwife.

2. What advice would you give to a healthy primigravida regarding the preservation of her health during pregnancy?

3. Give the common causes and state the disadvantages of early rupture of the membranes.

What would you do in the event of the membranes rupturing at the onset of labour in a primipara?

4. What signs would enable you to recognise, during labour with the vertex presenting, that the head was delayed—

(a) above the brim

(b) in the cavity

or

(c) at the outlet.

5. Describe the appearances of a child born in a state of white asphyxia. What might have produced this condition?

6. What notifications may a midwife have to make to the Local Supervising Authority?

### LEGITIMACY BILL.

The Legitimacy Bill has passed its Second Reading in the House of Lords, but the Committee stages have been postponed until the autumn session in order that the advice of the Lord Chancellor may be available. The Government has undertaken to give reasonable time in the House of Commons for the consideration of any amendments made in the Lords, and it is hoped that the Bill may be passed before the end of the year.

### STATE REGISTRATION OF MIDWIFERY NURSES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Prior to July, 1922, nurses desiring to Register in Western Australia as Midwives could obtain registration on production of a Hospital Certificate from an approved institution. The *Australian Nurses' Journal* reminds its readers that before registration can now be effected it is necessary to pass a State examination. Certificates of training from approved Training Institutions will be accepted as evidence of training and will entitle the holder thereof to admission to the Board's examination, provided that the period of training is equal to twelve months for an otherwise untrained woman, or six months for a general trained nurse.

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