

# The Midwife.

## QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITAL.

### OPENING OF ISOLATION BLOCK.

The opening of the Isolation Block of Queen Charlotte's Hospital on the new site at Goldhawk Road, Hammer-smith, by H.R.H. Princess Mary, Countess of Harewood, takes place too near the date of our going to press for it to be possible to give a description of the proceedings, but we note the event with pleasure as an indication that the new Queen Charlotte's, which aims at an ultimate capacity of at least 358 beds, is rising apace on its foundations, with what benefit to future mothers and babies, and influence on the maternal and infantile death rate time alone can prove.

Of these beds 200 will be in the public wards, 80 to 100 in the private paying wards for middle-class patients of small means, and 48 pre-natal beds, with 30 beds in the Isolation Block, with nurseries for 30 infants. There will be improved facilities for post-graduate and midwife training, as well as for extending educational training among expectant mothers and mothers, by means of pre-natal clinics and infant welfare work. Most important of all, there will be for the first time in Great Britain adequate facilities for research into puerperal fever.

The financial success of the campaign, remarkable as it is, still leaves the Committee of the Hospital in the serious position of having raised only £140,000 of the £500,000 required, and they are faced therefore with the grave problem of raising an immense capital sum in the near future if this great national hospital is to be reconstructed so as to deal adequately with the terrible problem of maternal mortality. One of the chief sources of capital has been that of industrial beds subscribed by industries or professions, who thereby have the right to nominate patients. During 1929 the Stock Exchange endowed such a bed, the big banks and financial institutions another, while other beds are in process of completion. The cost of building, equipping and partly endowing a bed in the new hospital is £3,500.

Private donors are finding it very profitable to covenant for beds or other large donations by annual instalments for seven years; so that full advantage can be taken of super-tax and income-tax rebates. Those who wish to help this great undertaking in its urgent need for capital for re-building are most earnestly requested to investigate the advantages of the seven-year tax covenants. The organiser will be pleased to send specimen deeds to those who are interested.

At the other end of the economic scale there are the shops and small establishments, and here the hospital has nearly 1,200 of registered red cradles in action collecting many hundreds of pounds a year, mostly in coppers, a striking tribute to the popularity of the hospital among the poorest classes.

### THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

At the May Examination of the Central Midwives Board 811 candidates were examined, and 651 passed the examiners. The percentage of failures was 19.7.

### PRENATAL BAG FOR DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH NURSES.

Miss Mary J. Dunn, Assistant to the Director, Bureau of Nursing, Department of Health, City of New York, describes in the *Public Health Nurse* a Prenatal Bag.

The Bureau of Nursing, City of New York, Department of Health, has recently designed and distributed for use a prenatal bag especially adapted to the needs of the maternity hygiene nurses.

The bag is made of black cowhide, and is comparatively small in size and light in weight; its weight without equipment is one pound, fourteen ounces, with equipment three and one-half pounds. The outside dimensions of the bag are 13 inches by 8 inches by 5½ inches, making it a convenient size to carry, either under the arm or by the handles. It has a steel mounting, a brass lock, and two small firm round handles, one on either side of the steel frame.

The interior has two leather partitions, 4½ inches deep, making three sections. The base and the ends of the bag are collapsible, making the appearance of the bag similar to that of a brief case. However, the middle section of the bag has an adjustable stiff base, 12 inches by 2 inches, which facilitates keeping the bag open, and in an upright position when in use. This section has a detachable linen lining, with six pockets; four for bottles, two for thermometers.

The bag contains the minimum equipment for a home visit, including the following:

#### First Section—

- Paper napkins.
- Absorbent cotton in waxed envelope.

#### Middle Section—

- Mouth thermometer in blue top metal case.
- Rectal thermometer in red top metal case.
- Bottle for green soap—2 ounce size, screw top.
- Bottle for alcohol—2 ounce size, screw top.
- Two specimen bottles—2 ounce size, screw top.
- Butcher apron (linen) in Manila envelope.

#### Third Section—

- Records, Literature, Tongue depressors, in waxed envelope.
- Applications in waxed envelope.
- Six royal sanitary cups for funnel.

It is the policy of the Department of Health to take blood pressures, and to do urinalyses at the maternity hygiene centre instead of in the home. At the present time, specimens of urine are collected in the home and brought back to the station for examination; bottles for these specimens are included in the bag equipment.

These bags cost without equipment \$10.50; with equipment, approximately \$13.00.

### MIDWIFERY IN CHINA.

After December 31st, 1930, all Midwifery Schools in China must be registered with the National Midwifery Board, and only midwives trained in such Schools will be registered by the Government. After this year (1930) the Nurses' Association of China will discontinue all training and examinations in Midwifery. The Association has been giving this Course to graduate nurses only, until such time as all Midwifery shall be taken over by the Government, and rejoice that now that time has arrived.

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