

The Midwife.

THE MATERNITY UNIT OF THE RAMSGATE HOSPITAL.

THE QUEEN'S GIFT.

The new Maternity Unit of the Ramsgate Hospital, containing a minimum of twenty-five beds, which was opened on February 28th, and is the gift of Dame Janet Stancomb Wills, President of the Hospital, is most perfectly equipped, and includes a receiving room, a labour room, and the main ward, also an observation room for cases needing special care and attention. The total cost of the ward, bringing the accommodation of the Hospital up to 100 beds, has been £14,000.

The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs. Richardson, sister of Dame Janet, who presided at the function and announced that Her Majesty the Queen had shown her interest by giving a silk-lined, pink wool coverlet worked by herself, to be placed on the cot of the first baby born in the unit. She looked forward to writing to Her Majesty and telling her that her gift covered a very healthy infant.

Prayers were said by the Rev. T. Hancocks, after which Dr. Archibald said this would be a proud day in the annals of any hospital, and it was indeed a proud day in the annals of the Ramsgate General Hospital, and in the history of the town.

Dame Janet paid a tribute to the work of the Matron and doctors, for their suggestions and help in ensuring that the new unit was perfect.

Dr. Hicks, on behalf of the Trustees, the Committee, and the Honorary Staff, thanked Dame Janet for her gift, and said that the committee had placed their thanks on record on a parchment and asked Capt. Balfour to present it to her.

The ceremony closed with the Benediction, pronounced by the Vicar of Ramsgate.

A PRAYER.

The prayer printed below, with the appended description, was given many years ago to Miss Henrietta Hawkins by an old woman in Poplar, and has been presented by her to the History Section of the British College of Nurses.

"The following prayer was found in the grave of our Lord Jesus Christ in the year 803, and sent from the Pope to the Emperor Charles, as he was going to battle for safety. They who shall repeat it every day, or hear it repeated, or keep it about them, shall never die a sudden death, nor be drowned in water, nor shall poison have any effect on them. And it being read over any woman in labour, she will be delivered safely and be a glad mother: and when the child is born, lay this on his or her right side, and he or she

shall not be troubled with any misfortunes; and if you see anyone in fits, lay it on his or her right side, and he or she shall stand up and thank God. And they who shall repeat it in any house shall be blessed by the Lord; and he that will laugh at it will suffer.

Believe this for certain—it is as true as the Holy Evangelist has written it. They who keep it about them shall not fear lightning nor thunder, and they who shall repeat it every day, shall have three days' warning before their death.

THE PRAYER.

O adorable Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, dying on the gallows-tree for our lives; O holy Cross of Christ, see me in thought; O holy Cross of Christ, ward off from me all sharp repeating words; O holy Cross of Christ, ward off



THE NEW MATERNITY WARD OF THE RAMSGATE HOSPITAL.

from me all weapons of danger; O holy Cross of Christ, ward off from me all things that are evil; O holy Cross of Christ, protect me from my enemies; O holy Cross of Christ, protect me in the way of happiness. O holy Cross of Christ, ward off from me all dangerous deaths, and give me life always; O Crucified Jesus of Nazareth, have mercy on me, now, and for ever.—AMEN.

In honour of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and in honour of His sacred passion, and in honour of His Holy Resurrection and God-like Ascension, to which He liked to bring me to the right way to heaven—true as Jesus Christ was crucified on Good Friday, true as the three wise kings brought their offerings to Jesus, on the thirteenth day, true as He ascended into Heaven, so the honour of Jesus will keep me from my enemies, visible and invisible, now and for ever.—AMEN.

O Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me; Mary and Joseph pray for me through Nicodemus, and Joseph, who took our Lord down from the cross and buried Him, O Lord Jesus Christ, through Thy suffering on the Cross, for truly Your Soul was parting out of this sinful world, give me grace, that I may carry my cross patiently with dread and fear when I suffer, and that without complaining, and that through Thy sufferings I may escape all dangers now and for ever.—AMEN."

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