

The Midwife.

THE SCHOOL OF MIDWIFERY OF THE "GRAND MATERNITÉ" OF PARIS.

The School was founded in 1802. The Minister Chaptal was the first to conceive the idea of founding a large school of midwifery with the aim of recruiting and training the midwives for all France. On July 28th, 1802, and September 17th, 1803, he sent circulars to the prefects announcing the opening, in connection with the Maternity Hospital, of a school for the theory and practice of midwifery, which would admit students either at their own expense or at the expense of the government.

All the regulations in connection with the School of Midwifery were taken care of by the Ministerial Decrees of June 30th, 1802, January 17th, 1807, September 8th, 1810, and by the decrees of the General Hospitals' Council of June 26th, 1811. The curriculum and the entrance requirements remained unchanged until 1895, at which time the Administration of the Department of Public Welfare found it necessary to make certain changes in order to meet the new conditions of instruction prescribed by the Decree of July 25th, 1893, relative to those wishing to secure the diploma of midwifery.

Instruction in the School includes: theory and practice of midwifery; vaccination; blood-letting; and elementary chemistry mainly dealing with the antiseptics used at confinements. The duration of the course is two years.

The chief obstetrician, who is Director of the School, is in charge of the instruction, both practical and theoretical, and gives 80 lectures during the course. The assistant obstetrician, who is also an associate professor, gives 20 lectures; the resident physician has a course of 40 lectures; a pharmacist instructs in elementary chemistry; and two medical internes teach vaccination and blood-letting. The midwife in charge, with assistant midwives, gives also theoretical instruction, following a plan drawn up by the chief obstetrician. She has charge also of the practical experiences of the students under the supervision of the chief obstetrician. Also a certain number of lessons in elementary anatomy and physiology and in elementary pathology are given.

The lessons aim, amongst other things, to give a detailed study of obstetrical anatomy and physiology, and the theory and practice of deliveries. In connection with the course in anatomy demonstrations are given on corpses. They are confined entirely to female specimens, and are held in the hospital's amphitheatre for anatomy during the morning hours when there are no courses for medical students. The midwifery students are given six to eight lessons in three groups, with one lesson a week, allowing two months for each series. About half of the lessons are on vital organs in general, the other half on the special anatomy of the female genital organs.

Throughout the two years the instructors may give examinations, after which any students who are considered unfit or incapable of continuing the course may be dropped.

The course begins on July 1st and lasts two years. The examinations take place in the months of May and June after each school year; for the final examination at the end of the second year the students are examined by a jury composed of the chief obstetrician, his assistant, the resident physician from the Maternity Hospital and two commissioners, one named by the Director of the Department of Public Welfare of Paris and the other by the Faculty of Medicine. After the examinations the members

of the jury, having deliberated among themselves, make out an official report. A duplicate of this is sent to the Faculty of Medicine, where each student is given in exchange for her certificate received from the Director of the Hospital, upon payment of 25 francs, a diploma of midwifery of the first class, with permission to practise in any part of France.

After the final examinations the contest for prizes is open among the students who are declared by the jury as being the best instructed and most worthy. These prizes consist of books and ten silver medals.

£20,000 FOR QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital, at Ravenscourt Park, has received a gift of £20,000 from the executors and trustees of the late Mr. Bernhard Baron, for the purpose of naming the Research Laboratories there as a permanent memorial to him. The Duchess of York, who is President of Queen Charlotte's National Mother-Saving Campaign, and who recently visited the laboratories, has graciously sent to the hospital a message saying "she is indeed delighted to hear of this munificent donation, which will give all those carrying on the research work in the laboratories a new impetus and great encouragement." The especial aim of the research workers is to investigate child-bed fever, the chief single cause of the high maternal mortality in all countries and in all classes.

We congratulate "Queen Charlotte's" on this splendid gift. This is one more proof of the excellent management of the hospital—which has developed in recent years into a national institution.

THE EAST END MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

We receive the Annual Report of the East End Maternity Hospital with pleasure and invariably turn to the report of the Lady Superintendent, Miss Margaret Anderson, as she has an extraordinary talent for summarising its work in the most sympathetic and enticing manner. The report of the year ended December 31st, 1931, opens, and we should like to publish it in full, if space permitted, it makes consoling reading in these material times.

Miss Anderson writes:

"Life is measured by thought and action, not by time, and at the end of a year it is well to look backwards and forwards. The Past is for Experience and the Future is for Hope. The Present just dovetails the two together and my present duty is to review the results of the past year.

"The work of this Hospital is concentrated on Motherhood and our endeavour is to ease the burden of the mothers of East London and to guide them safely through child-bearing and child-birth, and the help and sympathy of our subscribers is the lubricant which oils the wheels of this useful Hospital easily and swiftly in its mighty work.

"The total number of patients either delivered in hospital or attended in their own homes during 1931 was 1,964.

"The In-patients delivered in our hospital numbered 1,437. Many who were very ill, apart from pregnancy, came in before they were expected, and others required longer rest, for no mother is allowed to go home until she is able to undertake her normal life.

"The work this year has been heavy and exacting and emergencies have arisen which have caused great anxiety and nerve strain. The staff have loyally and efficiently done their part.

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