

# The Midwife.

## THE QUEEN'S INTEREST IN MIDWIFERY.

The General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, is recognised as one of our leading schools of Midwifery—where nurses are eager to enter for training in a branch of work which in these days should be added to general training. It was with evident pleasure that Her Majesty the Queen, who is patron of the hospital, a position which has also been held, since the institution was established in 1765, by Queen Adelaide, Queen Victoria, and Queen Alexandra, paid a visit to the Hospital on March 6th, to open the new out-patient department, welfare centre, and nurses' home.

The basement and ground floor of the new building are designed as a clinic and for welfare work. A lecture hall and a museum are provided. Five upper floors are used for the nurses' home, which has 74 pleasant bedrooms and bed-sittingrooms, decorated in various pastel shades.

The Queen was warmly cheered by the crowd as she arrived at the hospital—where a guard of honour was formed by members of the nursing staff, and she was received at the main entrance by Lord Onslow, the President.

In the Board Room the Queen was welcomed by the vice-presidents and the Archbishop of Canterbury—she was then escorted to the lecture hall of the new building. Before the opening ceremony, Miss E. M. Tunbridge, the matron, brought into the room on a white silk cushion Alan George Burroughs, the youngest baby in the hospital, born rather less than three hours before the Queen's arrival, and "assisted" him to present a bouquet of pink carnations and lilies to her Majesty.

The proceedings in the lecture hall were opened with prayer by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Lord Onslow then officially welcomed the Queen and asked her to unveil an oak tablet commemorating the opening of the new building. He said that they were proud to think that this was the third time her Majesty had been pleased to visit the hospital, and recalled that since its foundation 168 years ago the hospital had been honoured by the Royal family. Queen Mary had been connected with them since 1896.

The cost of the new building, £57,000, had now been defrayed except for £1,500, and he thanked those who had helped the hospital in collecting the money, especially Lady Birkenhead. They were lent £10,000 towards finishing the work, and this loan had become a gift, while an anonymous donor who had promised £5,000 on condition that the building was opened free of debt had given them the cheque although the amount required was not quite completed.

Lady Simon in thanking the Queen for her presence said that all realised that her presence was not a tedious duty, but an expression of sympathy.

They appreciated her Majesty's interest in the work of midwifery. Speaking of maternal mortality and the work of the hospital in training midwives for work throughout the Empire, Lady Simon said that there was no more pathetic tragedy than that of a woman sacrificing her life in the fulfilment of her natural destiny, and it was all the more pathetic when they knew that with skilled medical attention and good nursing the tragedy could be avoided.

After the ceremony the Queen made a tour of the new building and also visited the wards of the hospital, where she said a few words to each of the 36 patients. Mrs

Burroughs was one of the first women to whom her Majesty spoke. The baby had been returned to his cot, where he lay under a quilt which the Queen herself made and gave to the hospital some time ago.

The hospital presented an exquisite appearance of cleanliness and order, beautifully decorated with lovely spring flowers—and the nurses appeared a happy band of workers engaged as they are in duties of such intensely human interest.

No doubt the Royal Patron realised with pride, the order, discipline and success of the fine school of midwifery at the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road.

## CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

### EXAMINATION PAPER, 15th FEBRUARY, 1933.

1. A woman who has failed to suckle her previous child books with you at the seventh month of pregnancy. How would you manage this patient in order to secure normal breast feeding?

2. A patient has bleeding during the first stage of labour, severe enough to produce slight pallor and a pulse rate of 98. What could you do in such a case while awaiting the doctor's arrival?

3. What injuries may occur to the genital tract during labour? How may they be prevented? What examination should be made to discover if any of these injuries are present?

4. What records of mother and child after delivery must be kept by the midwife? What is the purpose of such records and why is it important that they should be properly and fully kept?

5. How do you deal with the umbilical cord until it has separated? Give the reasons for everything you do.

6. You are in attendance as a maternity nurse on a patient with slight but slowly increasing fever from the third day of the puerperium. The doctor whose case it is does not regard the condition as infectious but you fear it may be. What would you do in such a case?

### MEMBERS OF THE MIDWIVES BOARD.

Dr. J. S. Fairbairn, Miss E. M. Doubleday and Miss A. A. I. Pollard have been re-elected as the representatives of the Midwives Institute on the Board for the year commencing April 1st, 1933.

The Minister has appointed Miss Edith Greaves, Miss Ada Davies, M.B.E., Dr. W. Allen Daley and Mr. A. B. Maclachlan to be members of the Board.

Mr. Victor Bonney has been re-elected as the representative of the Royal College of Surgeons on the Board.

Councillor W. J. Loxley, J.P., has been re-appointed as the representative of the Association of Municipal Corporations on the Board.

THROUGHOUT THE DAY, WHY NOT BE SERENE? No frown ever made a heart glad; no complaint ever made a dark day bright; no bitter word ever lightened a burden or made a rough road smooth; no grumbling ever made the sun shine in a home. The day needs the resolute step, the look of cheer, the smiling countenance, the kindly word.

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