



THE MIDWIVES' UNION SECTION

Hon. Secretary:—Miss S. M. Round (Sister Sallie), All Saints' Dispensary, Panvel, Dt. Colaba, Bombay.

Members are asked to kindly send any helpful notes of cases, and articles for this Section to the Secretary.

A Case of Obstructed Labour

By MISS D. LEWIS, Pupil Midwife, Lady Hardinge Medical College Hospital, New Delhi

On the 27th April, 1938 at 10-15 a.m. a patient was admitted for obstructed labour and with a history of pregnancy for 9 months and 13 days, 5th gravida.

Labour pains started on the morning of 26th April, membranes ruptured at mid-day and pains continued to be strong.

A Desi Dai was called on the 26th evening, who examined her internally and said it was a breech presentation. She pulled out the legs first and then the body gradually till the arms came out. The whole body was delivered by 2 a.m. on 27th April, 1938, the Dai pulling very hard all night. The patient started bleeding from 10 p.m. last night and continued to bleed till 10 a.m. this morning.

The Dai said that she would like to cut the head of the child and deliver it, so about 8 people held the patient whilst the Dai put in a penknife and she said she had split the jaw of the baby, eventually she separated its body. Still the head could not be delivered and so the patient was brought by motor bus to this hospital. The journey took two hours approximately.

All her previous deliveries were quite normal.

On examination. The patient looked ill though well nourished, H. B. 55 per cent B. P. 120/68, Temperature 100.2°F, pulse 110 per minute, regular, volume and tension good.

P.V. Examination done by Doctor under an anaesthesia. The vagina was rough, cervix fully dilated. Child's mouth felt on left side and on pulling on the lower jaw the head came away without difficulty.—Hydrocephalus. Most of the fluid had drained away. Bits of membrane expelled at 12 noon. The placenta was evidently expelled after the body of the child.

Patient's progress was satisfactory. A febrile from 28th April, 1938 and discharged well on 5th May, 1938.

Treatment given was. I. U. Glycerine, Inj. Milk, Prosepticine tablets 2 T. D. S. and Anti-strepto-coccial serum 10 cc., and Inj. Prostosil B. D. for 5 doses.

STUDENT NURSES' ASSOCIATION SECTION

Reports and Articles for this Section will be welcomed by the Hony. Organising Secretary, Miss Sharwood-Smith, Lady Hardinge Hospital, New Delhi.

DEAR STUDENT NURSES,

The entries for the essay 'Ethics of Nursing', were not very many, only five altogether, but the best essay was worthy of a prize and this has been awarded to Miss M. Miller of the Irwin Hospital Delhi, and the essay is published below. Most of the competitors stressed the Ethics of nurses in regard to the patients only and left out the much wider aspect of this subject in regard to the nurse's attitude to her profession, her hospital and her fellow-workers.

I hope with the holidays coming and more leisure time some of you will send me in some essay for the S. N. page.

Yours sincerely,

K. SHARWOOD-SMITH.

The Prize Essay.

ETHICS OF NURSING

By MISS M. MILLER, Student Nurse, Irwin Hospital, New Delhi.

The foundations for the making of a good nurse depends firstly on her character, for in nursing it is more important to do right than to know it. Though character may not be based mainly on this consideration, it is none the less true, for the patient should be the nurse's first concern, and neglecting and evading a duty will only result in the patient becoming worse and his condition reflecting on the Nurse. It must be remembered that a hospital exists first for the sick, and then for the nursing staff, so it is essential for a good nurse to think of this, and realise that the goodness in her is brought out in her work, and so on the treatment the patient receives while in hospital. A nurse's responsibilities are heavy, and it is impossible not to think of the error, overlooked perhaps in a moment of wrong judgement which perhaps may bring misery to others. A nurse's highest ambition should be to do her duty—she should be honest and truthful, true to herself, and true to those who have put their trust in her—as dishonesty leads to a Patient, a Doctor or Sister mistrusting her, losing faith in her, and eventually despising her. Even if she has done wrong, she should never be ashamed to own it, though she ought to be ashamed of herself, and feel that to be relied upon is an essential quality required in a good nurse. She should be obedient, and respectful to her seniors, remembering that learning to obey is learning how to command when she becomes senior herself. A nurse, like a soldier, must learn that discipline is good, both for the body, and the mind. She should learn to discipline herself, and then her patients, and that a bad nurse will never make a good sister, or superintendent. It is not for a nurse to think of what she would like to do, but of what she ought to do—performing her duties, not claiming her rights. Patience is required of a nurse, as ill-temper leads to unhappiness, and it must still be remembered that she is dealing with somebody, who is probably unhappy, and thinking a great deal about the illness which he is in hospital for. A nurse must act as a hostess to her patients, and it is seldom that a hostess is ill-tempered! Good manners go with patience. A nurse's attitude towards her patients goes a long way in winning their trust, and confidence as it is the nurse who offers kind words of sympathy or cheerfulness according to her patients' feelings. Tact is also required, and those to whom it does not come naturally, ought to try and acquire it, for a nurse cannot win and deserve the confidence of those she is nursing if she does not try and meet the wishes of others, without being afraid to say 'No'. In any dealings with relatives or visitors, or even with the patient, the nurse will find that steadiness and coolness are invaluable and to be frank, yet reserved, requires tact—being courteous—leading her patients and their friends instead of driving them.

A nurse should always be tidy both in her work and dress. Most people are judged by their appearance. And a patient may get to know her nurse well by perhaps a long stay in the Hospital but there are many patients who by their short stay in hospital are mere strangers. It is these patients that only have appearances to judge the nurse by. Moreover if a nurse is tidy in her appearance it is considered that she is tidy about other