

In writing this article I have thought of those who desire to know the principles of X-ray rather than those who are actually working an apparatus. Next month we will discuss more the properties of X-rays and touch upon the much more interesting parts in their relation to medicine and surgery.

References.—1. Knox's X-ray.

2. X-ray Diagnosis and Treatment. Bythell and Barclay.

3. Arthur and Muir Manual of Practical X-ray Work.

4. Textbook of Radiology, by Morton.

ACCOUCHEMENT OUTFIT FOR INDIAN WOMEN.

By DR. RUTH WILSON.

IT has always seemed to me that one of the chief difficulties we have to contend with at Indian confinements is the lack of material for carrying out practical cleanliness.

Medical women take with them bags packed with all that can be needed, but midwives and dais, cannot afford to do so, with the result that the labour goes on pretty much as if no one but the untrained dai were present.

When I was in practice I was not infrequently asked by Indian men of the middle classes what they ought to get for their wives confinements. It was not an easy business to make the list of things required. Sometimes the man was unable to get them and if he did the dai was often unaware how to use them. Husbands used sometimes to ask the dai what they should get and I noticed that under these circumstances a dai usually ordered a water-proof sheet and a douche can both of them rather expensive, and hardly providing all that was needed.

The most necessary articles for a dai to carry, I suppose, are soap, scissors, antiseptic lotion, and a small basin. These she ought to supply herself with, unless the municipality under which she is working will do so.

I have been trying during the past year to put together a packet containing the articles which the patient might reasonably be expected to provide and the possession of which would enable an Indian dai possessing the first named articles to conduct a labour in a middle-class or poor Indian house with all the essentials of cleanliness.

The models taken were Hartmann and Southall's accouchements outfits.

Every effort has been made to turn out inexpensive articles as it is realised that nothing else will be at all freely used. The packet now shown was made at the Lady Hardinge College and consists of the following:—

- 1 waterproof sheet (a yard square of brown paper tarred, and a single layer of gauze laid over).
- 2 sanitary sheets each 2 ft. square, consisting of gauze and tow (one intended for use at the confinement over the water-proof sheet, the other during the puerperium).
- 16 sanitary diapers of gauze and tow,
- 36 swabs of tow.

- 6 squares of gauze for cleaning baby's mouth and eyes.
- 6 ligatures for cord.
- 1 pad and binder for cord.
- 2 binders for mother—dusooti.
- 1 needle and thread.

All sterilised after making. Cost price, Rs. 4.

It is proposed that these packets should be used in training schools for dais. The dais would then become familiar with the articles supplied and would know to put them to their proper use.

Indian husbands of the middle classes who wish their wives to be properly attended would have no difficulty in buying one of these at Rs. 4, in addition to paying the dai's fee.

For the poorer classes the price would have to be reduced and possibly Local Governments or local bodies might be induced to give a subsidy in order to make this possible. It is evident, however, that they will not do so unless it is clear that there is some demand for such an article and that medical men and women throughout the country believe such a step would have an important influence in combating the bad conditions of child-birth especially puerperal fever.

The Victoria Memorial Scholarship Fund is now arranging for the preparation of a number of these packets with the kind co-operation of the Principal and Staff of the Lady Hardinge College. It is proposed that these should be sent out to the principal maternity hospitals and training schools in India as samples and that opinions should be asked as to the usefulness of the scheme generally and as to possible improvements. The financial question will then have to be considered. In the meantime members of the Association are asked to examine the packet and give their opinions on the above questions.

THE CHANGING FACE OF WOMAN.

The Daily Express.

THE greatest painters of these days of war are painters of the soul. They have won their greatness because, in the wealth of their daring, they have refused to put on canvas the standardised smile of the pretty, the conventional loveliness of the aristocratic, or the expensive clothing of the merely rich. "Give me a character to paint," cries an artist of modern days, "and I shall be happy."

So it has come about that war-painters are glad to paint the "plain" woman; they look not for perfection of feature so much as for distinction of personality. The war-painter has seized his great chance; for the face of womanhood is slowly changing, and if our children would know in the years to come what the great war did to the women of our lands let them compare the portraits of its strange and splendid days with those of preceding years.

Very surely it is a finer face. The unlovely furrows that come from trivial worries, the tiredness in the eyes produced by long, unfruitful days indoors,