

¶ One third of the blind wards of the State have lost the light of day & are condemned to eternal darkness gloom thro' the ignorance or carelessness of their attendants at birth.

Why is All This?

Chicago is a great medical center yet the majority of its physicians are graduated and give a course to practice, with but ^{meagre} knowledge of the art of obstetrics. ¶ The State allows ignorant midwives to practice the difficult art of obstetrics. Women who would not be permitted to open a bottle the week, are entrusted with the grave responsibilities a maternity case. ¶ Thousands of poor women cannot obtain proper care at their homes, and if emergency arise (~~and~~ ^{as} they often do) most of the general hospitals not properly equipped, to handle such complicated cases. ¶ For time immemorial the birth of a child has been considered a natural function, unattended with danger. This is very curious because the facts prove just the opposite but the effect of this notion has been to blind the public to possible dangers & induce them to neglect proper precautions against them. This is the reason that midwives are still tolerated, and a department of medicine that should be entrusted to midwives would surely not appeal so strongly to ambitious physicians.

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As a result the best surgeons & physicians will not take up the practice of obstetrics, - they will not practice "midwifery" and the poor mother, undergoing the ordeal of childbirth has to be content with less skill than her neighbor who is to have an appendicitis operate.

Plan of the Dying-in Hospital Boards.

The Women's Board under the Presidency of Mrs. Kellogg Fairbank, & the Men's Board under Mr. Fred. A. Delano believe they can relieve these evils by erecting a dying-in hospital on each of the three sides of the city. These hospitals will be models of their kind, and will embody not alone the knowledge of modern medicine but will be advanced & aim at establishing ideals for the future. They shall be equipped with all the facilities for fighting disease & meeting emergencies - as well, if not better than those enjoyed by the surgeon in his most modern operating room. Each hospital will have free wards, part pay and full pay rooms and each will have an ambulance specially designed to handle the emergencies of confinement cases enroute - and be Laboratories will be established for the study of the dark problems of obstetrics. Doctors students, nurses, nurserymaids will be trained in the small and the great things of ^{childbirth} ~~obstetrics~~ practice and will be sent over the central & western states to spread the joy of good obstetrics to the hearth of every community. In this way the standards of obstetrics will be raised and the lives of thousands & the health of myriads of the women of this land preserved. Beside their far reaching effect for good this plan will provide for the poor mothers of our race for the wives of the wage earners, and for the difficult

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complicated cases occurring here in Chicago & for miles around.
It will provide a convenient place for the physician
to take their cases; it will lessen the arduous task
of the accoucheur & will thus make the field of obstetrics
more inviting to the ambitious surgeon.

of the desperate & neglected cases of midwifery prac.
occurring in & around Chicago. Here such women, if
they can be brought to it alive, will receive all the atten-
tion that it is possible for human brains to devise & human
hands to execute. Physicians and midwives will be
invited to send even ^{the} most hopeless cases here, - for by
modern science & all modern facilities can still do some
thing for them.

Board of directors Mothers' Aid Sewing Club.

(Here.)

Dr. Joseph Stolz, Dr. A. R. Lapham, Dr.
E. G. Hirsch and several others ad-
dressed the meeting.