

given in a case of acute abdominal pain before diagnosis is completed, the true condition, which may perhaps be peritonitis, obstruction, strangulated hernia, or a ruptured ectopic gestation, may be so masked that operation is delayed till it is too late. Many lives have been thus lost, and it is now a cardinal rule that no opiate must be given in acute abdominal illness until the cause is established.

CONCLUSION.—These considerations show :

(1) That pain is not a mere disagreeable concomitant of disease or injury, to be banished by whatever means we are able to employ against it; but is a protective provision of Nature serving important ends in the preservation of the individual.

(2) That as a symptom it is one of the most important diagnostic indicators, but the intricacies of the nervous system, the peculiarities of individuals, and the various other modifying conditions mentioned, render it necessary to make the closest study of the symptom in all its aspects in order to draw correct conclusions.

(3) That having served its purpose, pain is in itself harmful, and the correctness of diagnosis, and the propriety of treatment are to a great extent measured by the relief of suffering obtained. Pain is to be regarded as a servant, whom we ought to be able to dismiss when his duty is done; and until we have asserted that degree of mastery over pain, there is still something to be learned in the art of healing.

## Native Midwifery in Egypt

February 28th, 1918.

Dear Miss Maclean,

Enclosed is the photo of the "Dyaks" in Egypt, the natives who are undergoing the training in midwifery under Government

thirteen, and have families of twelve to twenty, many of whom die in early infancy. The work of teaching should appeal to many of our well educated New Zealand midwives. The pay is more than



Dyaks Native Midwifery Pupils, Cairo.

auspices. Native midwifery is heart-rending to hear about. Amputation is the one and only operation. If by amputation of some misplaced part the child cannot advance, the parent dies with unborn child. Most girls marry about

fair; it is good, and a house and servant are provided, and if a nurse has a sister or mother to support, she can make a good home for them and herself, but she must be prepared to go to rather distant towns and live where perhaps there are only