

OUR RELATIONS WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

It has ever been our desire that this Home should be in friendly, intimate and reciprocal relations with kindred Institutions, but it is not always easy to maintain these. For instance, it was judged every way best that women from the Home should, in time of need, be sent to the Lying-in Hospital, rather than be laid up in the Home, but this is attended with difficulty and friction between the Institutions. At first it was considered that women were sent to the Lying-in too soon. Hence the following note :

"It was decided at a meeting of the Lying-in Hospital on the 6th March, that patients sent from the Home can only be received on the same terms as other patients, only just when they are to be confined. None can be received before the time. S. F., Secretary."

Now on the contrary it is said they are sent too late. But the Home has neither a resident accoucheur to pronounce the impending final hour, nor a coachman and carriage to send out with the women, so if by day one must be sent off, she is accompanied by one of the inmates of the Home, and if by night by two ; and many an anxious hour the matron and her two assistants in this work have had to strike the happy medium desired by all : without always succeeding. The question arises should not lying-in, under some circumstances, be allowed in the Home, the more especially as several times when fever had broken out in the Lying-in, women have been sent to the Home.

There are also points of friction with the Infants' Home, which Institution has pronounced its regrets thus :

"We regret that, in another Institution, these same women are engaged as wet nurses before their children are born, thereby drawing away the mother's affection from the child. As that Institution is not under the supervision of any Ladies' Committee, there is no means of counteracting the evil."

We suppose this Home is referred to. But be it known that this system of wet nursing is the very thing the Home disfavours, as far as it can, as being opposed in its tendency to the reformation of the women. Yet it is difficult to resist the wish of some of the women, and the appeals of ladies, aided by their