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The maternity ward as mirror

Maternal death, biobureaucracy, and institutional care in the Tanzanian health sector

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Care is attentive to such suffering and pain, but it does not dream up a world without lack. Not that it calls for cynicism either: care seeks to lighten what is heavy, and even if it fails...

It keeps on trying.

-Care in Practice: On Tinkering in Clinics, Homes, and Farms, Annemarie Mol, Ingunn Moser, and Jeannette Pols (eds.), p.14

“The maternity ward is the mirror of the hospital...I mean, you will find that in any hospital, a person will ask how is it, how is the language on the maternity ward? How is the care on the maternity ward? How is the drug supply on the maternity ward? How are the deaths on maternity? I mean, it’s necessary. A person, if they reach any hospital, the person can be just passing, but they will say they are interested in knowing about the maternity ward...I think it is a sensitive department because it is the workshop, the factory for bringing people into the world after asking God for them.”

-Nurse Aneth, Mawingu Hospital