

Sisterhoods, and a formal protest against the practice was ordered to be sent to the Adelaide Hospital.

I HAVE no doubt that the authorities of the latter body will have the courage to give an explanation full and complete, for surely there is sufficient originality and diversity of taste and design in the Nursing world to prevent the adoption of other people's ideas. The Adelaide Hospital Nursing Staff no doubt means well by using the style of dress originated by another Institution, but permission might first have been obtained. Perhaps some of our Dublin friends will enlighten us as to the exact position of affairs in respect to this matter.

IN our smartly-conducted contemporary, *Women's Penny Paper*, of the 3rd inst., I note the following letter, which I reproduce for the benefit of my readers. I am heartily pleased to note from time to time the gradual, but sure, growth of the public feeling towards Registration, which would be greatly stimulated by the publishing of incidents—and there are, unfortunately, a countless number of them—such as is described so graphically by a "District Visitor."

"MADAM,—An example of the truth of Dr Priestly's remarks on this subject at the meeting of the British Nurses' Association came under my notice a few weeks ago. A poor woman in my district was delivered of twins. The elder was born at six a.m., the younger at four p.m. During these hours of agony the poor woman's life hung by a thread, yet the incompetent Midwife refused to send for a Doctor. The husband at length sent for one at his own expense, so he will have to pay the guinea in addition to the Midwife's six shillings. When the Doctor came he was horrified, and said it was a marvel that the woman lived, and a still greater one that the child was born alive. The sufferings of poor women at such times through ignorant treatment, insufficient nourishment, and insufficient rest subsequently, are fearful to contemplate. A supply of well-trained, Registered, and *cheap* Midwives would be the greatest boon that could be conferred upon them; and it would also be a great boon if, when a Doctor has to be called in, it could be one of their own sex. Rich women call in a man-doctor for all sorts of small ailments, and get used to his attendance. Poor women are often injuriously affected by the entrance of a man who is a stranger, at such times as I have described. I have heard of cases where the excitement of it actually caused the pangs of labour to cease. Many and many a poor woman has expressed to me her shrinking from the attendance of a male Doctor.

With the greatest respect for the men who have embraced the profession of Medicine, and believing them to be, as a class, most noble and self-sacrificing, I must yet say that, in my opinion, in doctoring women and children, and particularly in obstetrics, they are decidedly out of their 'sphere.'—I am, Madam, yours sincerely, A DISTRICT VISITOR (Norwich)."  
S. G.

### HOSPITAL INTELLIGENCE.

I AM glad to note that the British Medical Association has decided at its annual meeting, lately held in Leeds, to support the demand recently made in Parliament to appoint a special commission of inquiry into the whole of our Hospital administration.

FOR we may depend upon it the time has come; indeed, it has been coming for the last ten years. The "hand-writing was upon the wall" some time even before, and the quiet and gradual evolution of a practical grappling of the whole of the system as it exists, and has existed, has been in the minds of many of our advanced thinkers and doers for a very considerable period.

EVERYTHING of the nature of a reform takes time. Years are occupied in the task and duty of learning what is exactly required to improve matters, and as long a period is necessary to realise how to do it; then when these become known, the man or body of men requisite to put the pent-up ideas into action has to be found, and oftentimes he or it is discerned to be, perhaps, some one of the many quiet and unassuming persons or associations, who for years has been grappling with the exact figures and facts of affairs, and who steps forward just when he or it is wanted to take command and pilot matters to a successful issue.

SUCH in brief is the history of all reforms; such in effect will be the history of all reforms in all time to come. Such was the history of the greatest reforms the world ever saw; such is the history of the present necessary Commission. What that Commission ought to do, and what men ought to have a seat upon it, will be my purpose at a date not far distant to suggest.

I WOULD even go further than placing the Hospitals under the purview of this to-be-appointed Commission. I would place every Institution of whatever kind seeking the aid of the public's monies under the proposed commissional microscope, in order to see that the funds are properly expended.

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