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OUR ALBUM.



MISS M. MOLLETT.

EDITORIAL.

THE REGISTRATION OF MIDWIVES.

IN continuance of the consideration which we devoted last week to the proposals of the Midwives' Institute to seek by Parliamentary means to secure the compulsory Registration of Midwives, we must first thank several correspondents for their letters upon the subject and answer their inquiries. We are glad to know that the wish we expressed, that the British Nurses' Association and the Midwives' Institute should join hands and work together for the common end they both desire, is cordially and widely re-echoed. But we regret to learn, upon authority which we believe to be reliable, that "many months ago the Association took some steps to secure the co-operation of the Midwives' Institute, and was met with a distinct refusal. The Obstetrical Society of London, at the request of the Association, more recently tried to effect a *rapprochement* between the two bodies, but met with a similar rebuff."

If this is so—although we cannot vouch for the absolute accuracy of the report—it is clear that the Association is not at fault, and, considering the unstinted abuse to which it is often treated, it cannot be surprising if it makes no further overtures in any direction. Nevertheless, as impartial observers, we cannot but say "the pity of it"—that when so great a work has to be done, two organisations, both capable of doing it well, and, united, capable of doing it quickly, should not only be working for their object separately, but even acting in opposite directions. Because it is plain that compulsory Registration is the very antithesis of the optional system. The Midwives' Institute seeks for the former; the British Nurses' Association proposes the institution of the latter.

We have proved again and again the extreme improbability that an English Parliament will

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