

did. Then I wished the Association to be made strong by numbers; now with probably one-fifth of the whole profession on its roll of membership, with a large money reserve, with an income larger than its expenditure, and with success in everything which it has undertaken so plainly proved that its bitterest enemies admit it, and with the certainty of even greater success looming large in the near future, no one need be advised to become a member. The only question for Nurses now is whether the Association will admit them to the honour and privileges of its membership. And if all accounts be true, the privileges will soon be as great as the honour.

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THE diminution in the Doctors' subscriptions is, I think, equally noteworthy. It is urged that medical men obtain absolutely no advantage from membership, and that, therefore, it is unfair to expect them to pay a large annual, or life, subscription. More than a hundred, I am told, have been good enough to do so; but it is reported that many all over the country have given the Association their moral support, who are not prepared to tax themselves pecuniarily for its assistance. I cannot but think that the proposed alteration, in admitting medical men to membership on payment of a life subscription of one guinea, will result in a great accession of strength in numbers, money and influence to the Association.

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I AM asked to give publicity to the following notice:—"British Nurses' Association, 8, Oxford Circus Avenue, Oxford Street, W., July 22nd, 1890. Programme of Annual Meeting, Friday, August 1st, 1890. Luncheon at 12.30 p.m., in the Midland Institute (opposite General Post Office), tickets, 2s. each, to be had of the Secretary, 8, Oxford Circus Avenue; or of the Matron, General Hospital, Birmingham. The Annual Meeting will be held in the Midland Eye Hospital, Church Street, at 1.45 p.m. There will be an excursion to Warwick Castle and Leamington in the afternoon, for the members of the Association and their friends, of which particulars will be announced at the Meeting. Members requiring accommodation for the night can receive information as to rooms and terms on sending a stamped and directed envelope to Miss Busby, Matron General Hospital. N.B.—Parties of ten or more coming from one town can probably obtain reduction of fares to and from Birmingham by applying to their Station-Master.—HELEN FOGGO-THOMSON, Secretary."

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THE *Evening News and Post*, whose reports one may very safely rely upon, treats us

to an account of an East End atrocity:—"A Poplar Scandal.—An Unqualified Midwife Severely Censured by a Coroner's Jury.—Mr. George Collier held an inquiry recently at the Poplar Town Hall respecting the death of Laura Emily Baker, aged twenty-four, the wife of a labourer, residing at 522, Grosvenor Buildings, Poplar. John Baker, the husband, stated that his wife was confined on Sunday, the 1st inst. She was attended by a woman named Slater, who practised as a Midwife. After the birth of the child, his wife complained of the manner in which Slater had performed her duties. She was in great pain, and on the following Saturday became so ill that it was necessary to call in the parish Doctor, who attended her till her death on the 12th inst. Mary Ann Bussey, aunt of the deceased, corroborated. Ellen Slater, of 266, St. Leonard's Road, Bromley, deposed that she had acted as a Midwife for about six years. She was not certificated. She attended the deceased, and performed her duty properly. Witness attributed deceased's death to her having eaten some oysters five days after the confinement. Dr. Smith, *locum tenens* for Dr. Skelly, the parish Doctor, said he found the deceased in a very serious condition. She died on Saturday last. He subsequently made a *post-mortem* examination, which revealed the fact that deceased had been subjected to rough usage and great unnecessary violence, which had set up peritonitis, the cause of death. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the Medical testimony, adding that Slater was deserving of severe censure. They further expressed an opinion that a law ought to be passed to prevent unqualified persons practising as Midwives. The Coroner, addressing Slater, said that the death of this poor woman lay at her door, and it would be better for her to retire from the profession before she made another such serious mistake. One life had been sacrificed to her ignorance and want of skill, and she might think herself lucky that she had not been charged with manslaughter. The jury had taken a very lenient view of her conduct, and he trusted she would be warned in time."

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AND to imagine that any individual, man or woman, outside of Bedlam, can be found, after perusing such a fearful case as the above, to oppose Registration is entirely beyond my comprehension. It is incumbent upon Matrons, Nurses, and everyone else associated with nursing work in any shape, to do what they can to their utmost to arouse the public to the betterment of its own health and interests by putting an end, once and for all, to scandals, not by any means few, such as the one quoted, and I sincerely

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)