

So they drafted a Bill for the Registration of Midwives, and introduced it into the House of Commons, where it slipped through the first hearing, and came on for the second reading before any attention was drawn to it. But then medical men in different parts of the kingdom began to inquire into the matter, and a chorus of ridicule and remonstrance arose instantly from all sides. The Parliamentary Committee of the British Medical Association used its great influence at once, and describing the Bill as a very bad measure, succeeded in obtaining its withdrawal and complete reconstruction. So that after passing its second reading the Bill fizzled out. I commend this result to any who in future may be tempted to trust rank outsiders with the management of professional affairs.

Now it is reported that medical men are bestirring themselves, and headed by Dr. Rentoul, of Liverpool, are organising a regular opposition to a measure which they declare would be fraught with danger to the public, and detrimental to the medical profession. The quotation from the *Globe* may be taken to heart as evidence of how little even the best of the lay press understand the question. As a firm advocate of Nurses' and Midwives' "rights," I cannot but feel that the ill-judged efforts of the Midwives' Institute would, if successful, do the greatest harm to their cause. It is absolutely impossible for Nurses to work independently of the medical profession. It is absolutely ridiculous for Midwives to expect to succeed if they take up an attitude of opposition to medical men. For their own comfort and success, as well as for the welfare of the sick, both Nurses and Midwives must work with, but under the control of, Doctors. The frank assertion of this fact probably accounts, in some measure, for the great success of the British Nurses' Association. If the Midwives' Institute would throw its Jonah overboard and follow the Nurses' principle, probably they would in time obtain comparatively as much success.

I AM asked to state that Miss M. Johnson, M.B.N.A., St. Pancras Infirmary, King's Langley, has been declared the winner in the Eighteenth Prize Essay Competition, which had for its subject the following:—"A Private Nurse—worn with work, but not finding it necessary to put herself under the Doctor's hands, yet strongly needing rest—is told by a kind friend of the patient she has recently been nursing to 'go for a change, and he will defray expenses up to the amount of a ten pound note.' How would the ten pounds be best spent? giving all particulars as to what could be done with such a sum under

similar circumstances, recuperating the Nurse's strength being, of course, the first consideration." I must congratulate this energetic young lady upon her success, as she has had a goodly number of competitors to contend with. The judges' award is in the terms as below: "We have carefully considered the respective merits of the various essays, and although several possess much greater literary merit than Miss Johnson's, we feel that from the very practical manner in which this lady has dealt with the subject, we have no hesitation in saying that the prize should be given to her."

Now an award of this kind should prove encouraging to all my readers, inasmuch as it shows that while literary merit is greatly appreciated in the essays sent in, still it is not a vital factor of success. A "plain tale plainly and practically told" is evidently what is looked for; if written with literary finish also, so much the better chance of winning.

I WOULD particularly like to draw my readers' attention to the subject of the nineteenth competition (see announcement), as it is one which should attract very considerably. It is equally as practical as the last one, and I therefore expect to hear from "Mr. Editor" that it is also well appreciated. It is as follows:—"Given a country town of two thousand inhabitants, most of whom are of the labouring and agricultural classes, you, a thoroughly Trained Nurse, are suddenly called upon by the Vicar and leading practitioner of the place to organise a 'District Nursing Society,' for the purpose of providing Nurses for the poor and also for the more wealthy residents, who, of course, pay for the Nurses' services when requiring them. The Vicar and Doctor are able to guarantee from friends £150 per annum *certain*, and it is believed that altogether £500 a-year can be secured by donations and contributions. Now what would you do, and how would you do it? giving details of your work, estimated receipts and expenditure."

I AM also very pleased to be able to announce that, commencing with this issue, a series of "post-card examinations" will be given regularly in the *Nursing Record*. Full particulars and questions set will be found on page vi. of advertisements. I need hardly point out how interesting and useful such examinations will prove to all connected with nursing, particularly to those occupied fourteen hours or more per day—ye fates!—but surely even these can spare the necessary few minutes to fill up a post-card, who really have not the time at their disposal

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