

to discuss this question at their meetings, and to forward a resolution to the Medical Council praying that they give immediate attention to this question? The profession does not keep sufficiently in touch with the Medical Council. If we kept in mind that the Council is a Council of Medical Education with power to appeal to the Privy Council, and with power to refuse to register degrees granted on insufficient knowledge, we should appreciate the enormous powers given by Act of Parliament to the Council. I would propose the following to the recommendation of the Council:—"That each student before being admitted to his final examination be required to produce certificates to the Examining Body showing (a) that he has attended a six months' course of lectures, including Midwifery, puerperal diseases, diseases of women and of infants; (b) that he has attended clinical instruction on diseases of women and infants at a recognised Hospital for six months; and (c) that he has *personally conducted* thirty labours under the immediate supervision of a registered practitioner." I hope the Medical and Obstetrical societies will agree to, and work for this, and request the Medical Council to adopt it. It may be argued that a six months' course of lectures is too long. I would only say, look at the wide range of subjects. Let us remember also this most important fact, that the examining bodies cannot examine the student in practical Midwifery and puerperal fevers. Recognising this, it is imperative that the instruction of the student while at college should be as perfect as possible. In Germany the student when passing his "Staats Examen" has to conduct a confinement, attend the woman and infant for nine days, and then write and send in a thesis on the case. In connection with the thirty cases of labour, I would ask practitioners to remember that the student has now to study for at least five years, and that six months of the fifth year may be spent under the tuition of a Medical practitioner recognised by the council. This would give the senior student—free from attendance on dissections, *post-mortems*, and fever hospital attendances—a good chance of learning the practical Midwifery. In the near future, I trust each of our Lying-in Hospitals will have paid District Medical Officers, who will each have a senior pupil under his immediate charge. I would here point out that if Midwives are given the power to attend the confinements now conducted by medical men and medical students in connection with hospitals, in the future this would lead to the students receiving the training in practical Midwifery *from the Midwife*. He might as well obtain his training in surgery from a bone-setter, or his medical education from a herbalist.

NURSING ECHOES.

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THE following excellent article appeared in the *Morning Post* last Friday. It shows the way in



which public opinion is moving, although in several particulars, it will be observed, our contemporary is not quite correct:—"A critical stage was reached yesterday in the history of the Royal British Nurses' Association. At the meeting held for the purpose

of considering the proposal to incorporate the Association under the Companies' Act, at which Princess Christian was present in her capacity as President of the Association, that step was unanimously approved of, and we may now take it for granted that a Royal Charter will be applied for in due course. The Association has desired to make that application ever since its foundation in 1887, but the immediate reason for taking active steps in the matter at this particular time was explained yesterday by Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK. It appears that last year the Committee of Lady BLOOMFIELD'S Pension Fund for Nurses expressed a wish to hand over a sum of £4,000 to the management of this Association, but this was found to be impossible, unless the Association were incorporated.

"SPEAKING on such a subject, Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK could not avoid touching upon the opposition with which the Association has had to contend throughout its career. That career, however, has been as prosperous as the best friends of the movement could desire. At the present time the Association can boast of three thousand Members, and a Register which contains the names of one thousand seven hundred Nurses, a sufficient evidence of the favour which the principal object of the Association has found with the Nursing profession. Opposition, of which there has been more than enough, has based itself chiefly upon the ground that the object which the Association has in view is calculated to lower rather than raise the *status* of the professional Nurse.

"THAT object is, as the public are aware, the Registration of Nurses and Midwives with a view to insuring a supply of persons competent for the duties which they undertake. At the present

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