

Board, and venture to hope that, under the circumstances, they will not consider themselves justified in confirming the appointment.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to us complaining bitterly of the fact that a Nurse was sent into his house from a London Hospital straight from a case of scarlet fever, without any disinfection whatever, to attend upon his wife, whose ailment was slight, and who might by this means have contracted a dangerous fever. The Nurse was returned at once, and no harm arose, but, for all that, the carelessness was most culpable. I would strongly recommend him for the future to apply to the Hanover Institute for Nurses, 22, George Street, which advertises weekly, "All Nurses from infectious cases undergo quarantine, at a special Home provided for the purpose, prior to returning to the Institute." This precaution should be taken by all Hospitals and Institutions that supply Nurses for private cases.

THE Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association is an active and useful enterprise which has done good work in the past, at the suggestion of Miss Louisa Twining, in supplying Nurses trained for one year in the Infirmarys of our workhouses, and where there is not a trained lady acting as Matron their aid will still be of great service to the sick. Many of our Workhouse Infirmarys in London and in the larger towns, however, are organised, and train their own Probationers for periods of from two to three years—a system which commends itself to me owing to the increased facility for maintaining discipline and acquiring thoroughness.

In the Special Election Number of the *Hospital Gazette*, I see that Mr. George Brown and Dr. F. H. Alderson, who are nominated by the Council of the General Practitioners Alliance as direct representatives for the General Medical Council, have issued an address to the Registered Practitioners of England and Wales. In it I read that these gentlemen "will also continue to oppose the State Registration of Midwives, feeling that it would place in the hands of ignorant and partially educated women a great power for mischief, that the mortality of childbirth and the facilities for crime would be greatly increased, and that it would be an unmitigated evil with no accompanying blessing. At the same time they would welcome and support any scheme by which qualified Obstetric Nurses could be created, to

HUDSON'S HALF-MINUTE THERMOMETERS, 8s. 6d., free by post. Hudson's Clinical Thermometer for Practitioners, Nurses, and Hospitals, 2s. 6d., free by post. Kew Certificates, 1s. 6d. each extra. Hudson and Co., Opticians and Patentees, 5, Crosby Square, London, E.C. Write for Medical Press Opinions. [8]

attend to their proper duties under the direction of a medical man, so that the sick poor might in their hour of need enjoy the blessing of good Nursing." There is little doubt that the "Obstetric Nurse" is to supplant the "Midwife" in the future, and that if thoroughly qualified she will supply a long-felt want. This attitude of the General Practitioners can hardly be pleasing to the Council of the Midwives Institute, who were instrumental in bringing forward the now notorious Midwives' Registration Bill last session, and who have taken such an active part in the opposition to the Registration of Trained Nurses.

THE following interesting letter has been received from a correspondent signing herself "A Late Carlisle Nurse," and Mr. Editor requests me to deal with it in these columns:—

Sir,—My attention having been called to an article about the Cumberland Infirmary, in your issue of Nov. 5, will you kindly allow me, from personal experience, to correct a few of the statements, and supply important details, evidently unknown to your correspondent, with regard to others? The number of Nurses is inaccurately stated to be nine. There are, in reality, twelve; and as the admission made that their work, "from all you hear, is very good," dismisses at once any imputation of its being neglected, there is only the other alternative left to contend with—namely, that "the ordinary Nursing Staff must be greatly over-worked." Correct information with regard to the arrangement of the Wards, which admittedly your correspondent failed to give you, will prove how utterly unfounded such an insinuation can possibly be. In the new building there are four large Wards, each containing eighteen beds, and managed by an experienced Staff Nurse, with a Probationer under her. Every Ward has a Ward Maid in addition, a very important item completely ignored by your correspondent. It is her duty to do the cleaning, &c., which in most other Hospitals is done by the Probationer, thus leaving the latter with all this extra time to be spent entirely in looking after the patients. In the old House there are several small Wards, some of them almost entirely devoted to special cases. Every Nurse and Probationer is off duty from 2.30 till 5.30 p.m. on alternate afternoons, and never works after 8.30 p.m. (When on duty in the afternoons, they leave off at seven or 7.30 p.m. in the evening.) They are never asked to do any extra work, as, in all cases of emergency, a Nurse can be had, at a moment's notice, from the Scottish Institute. In no other Hospital can the health and comfort of the Nurses be more thoroughly considered in every way; and even if there be, as undoubtedly there is, room for improvement with regard to the Nurses' sleeping accommodation, everything that can be done, under existing circumstances, has been done to make them as comfortable as possible. The new scheme effectually meets this difficulty. If the Nurses are to have better rooms, removed from their Wards, to say nothing of the proposed increase to their number, it can only be done by building a new wing. Under present arrangements, this improvement can only be made by taking some of the small Wards in the old House and turning them into bedrooms. This, of course, would necessitate a considerable reduction in the number of patients admissible. Surely this cannot be the suggestion your correspondent would make to replace the Bishop of Carlisle's clever and carefully thought-out plan? We can hardly believe this possible.

Before supplying you with information which leads you to condemn the new scheme, it would be advisable for your

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)