

mended practically all the reforms which we had urged; and it is to be hoped that the presence of Lord SANDHURST, the Chairman of that Committee, as a Governor at the recent Quarterly Court of the Hospital, may serve as a stimulus to the complete adoption of these recommendations. The case of a distinguished Probationer which was discussed at this Court shows that the Hospital has not yet acted upon one very important suggestion, viz., that dismissals should be by the governing body of the Hospital only. At present the Matron dismisses, and if the Probationer objects she has to appeal to the House Committee, and to obtain a reversal of the Matron's decision. It would further seem that no contemporary record of a Nurse's performances is kept, so that a question all important to her has to be decided to a large extent by recollections and general impressions, and this in a Hospital where the Matron very rarely visits the wards herself. Miss NIGHTINGALE'S admirable scheme of weekly records (printed in the House of Lords' Report) prevents any risk of injustice from such a course, and should be adopted in all Hospitals."

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THE East London Nursing Society, whose Annual Meeting has lately taken place at the Mansion House, is worthy of wide and liberal support; its aim is the provision of trained Nurses for the whole of the East End of London—a magnificent work—but it has as yet accomplished only about one-fourth of the great task its members set themselves to do. It has now four Matrons and 29 Nurses on its staff. My readers could not do better than make the needs of this most excellent Society known amongst any rich and liberal friends. Donations and subscriptions should be sent to the Secretary, 49, Philpot Street, Commercial Road, E.

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HER Royal Highness Princess CHRISTIAN has graciously consented to become patroness of the new Hostel of St. Luke, which has lately been opened in Devonshire Street, W., for the reception of clergymen about to undergo medical and surgical treatment. Everything to do with sorrow and sickness is at once of vital interest to this most sympathetic and gracious lady. I feel sure she will show a personal and most kindly interest in this new Institution, concerning which I should be glad to learn some particulars.

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I AM glad to observe that at the Annual General Meeting of the Governors of the Jenny Lind Infirmary for Sick Children, at Norwich, Miss WAINWRIGHT, the Matron, and her Nursing Staff, came in for a full and well deserved share of the commendation and thanks of the Governors. I feel sure this appreciation of their work will be a great stimulus to these ladies in the future.

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A "PERPLEXED country doctor" writes to the *British Medical Journal*: "I practise in a long, scattered,

purely agricultural village, where it is almost impossible to get anything done in the way of nursing. A highly trained Nurse is not required, but an educated woman of the servant class, one who will pay some attention to the homes of the people amongst whom she works. She must, of course, have a fair knowledge of nursing, not midwifery. It has been proposed to start a Nurse of this description in the village, and I should be very grateful for any advice from your readers; first, as to its feasibility; secondly, where such a woman could be found; and lastly, as to the cost. I may say that subscriptions will be readily forthcoming."

Will any of my readers answer these questions?

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A VERY important Meeting of the Metropolitan Branch of the British Medical Association was held on Wednesday, the 8th inst., Dr. PAVY, F.R.C.P., the President, in the Chair. It was called "to consider the Midwives' question," and probably the gentlemen who caused it to be convened have by this time thoroughly repented themselves that they did so. The feeling of the influential and representative Meeting seems to have been unmistakeable—and the uncompromising hostility of the medical profession was proclaimed to any hysterical legislation which would tend to palm ignorant women off upon the poor as efficient midwifery practitioners.

* * *

Two Resolutions were finally carried by overwhelming majorities—the first, that no training in midwifery could be considered efficient unless it were equivalent to that at present required from medical students, *i.e.*, five years; and the second, that the Branch considered that any legislation of any kind at present would be premature. As one of the speakers put it—"The Midwives' Bill was dead, and this Meeting has decently interred it." Probably neither the *Hospital* nor *Nursing Notes* will venture to tell their readers this important piece of news. But there can be no doubt now that the opposition to this mischievous suggestion of legislation is so powerful that the chances are very great that we shall hear no more about the Bill. The promoters of the Midwives' Institute have certainly played their cards badly, and their opposition to the voluntary Registration of Nurses has recoiled with deadly effect upon themselves. Now that the other organisations have made such a muddle of the Midwives, it is earnestly to be hoped that the Royal British Nurses' Association may be induced to take the matter in hand, and bring about the necessary reforms and improvements.

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