

unimaginative bather has difficulty in realising that his bath contains mineral water, and not sparkling, foaming champagne. As for the sprudel stream baths, the water of which flows constantly out and in, the effect is so exhilarating that the bather is tempted to remain in so exciting a medium beyond the allotted time. But the waters are strong, and they should only be taken under medical guidance. The town can boast of several eminent physicians, many of whom—notably Dr. Schott—have made a careful study for many years of the effects of its wonderful waters, more especially on the heart. There are two drinking springs—the Cur Brunnen and the Carlo Brunnen—about ten minutes' walk from the baths, where a band plays every morning between seven and eight, whilst the drinkers walk about under splendid chestnut trees. The arrangements at Brunnen, although improved of late, are not equal to the arrangements of the baths. The chief street of the town, which has a few good shops, slopes up towards the Curhaus and the Johannisberg, and has a magnificent avenue of trees on the side which skirts the park. The Curhaus stands on a terrace which is laid out with many rare shrubs and plants, and contains a theatre, a handsome reading room, and billiard and conversation rooms. There is a good restaurant also in connection with it, and every afternoon and evening a band plays on the terrace. The best hotel, and the nearest to the baths—a matter of some consequence to invalids—is the Kaiserhof, to which a large addition was made this year. The Hotel du Nord is the nearest to the Curhaus, and the Sprengel and Bellevue are within easy reach of the Brunnen. There are also many good villas, where rooms can be had with and without pension. Bad-Nauheim can be reached in eighteen hours from London, *viâ* Dover, Ostend, and Frankfort. Invalids who object to long railway journeys may come by Queenborough and Flushing, or by the new route *viâ* Harwich and the Hook of Holland, by which the journey by river to and from Rotterdam is avoided. As time goes on, the waters of Nauheim are likely to become as popular with English people as those of Homburg, Wiésbaden, and the other well-known German baths.”

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THE *Hospital Gazette* is on the war path on the Midwives' question, and is evidently going to fight the Bill in the House of Commons, backed up by the gentlemen in general practice in this country. It says:—

“The Doctors and Nurses who ‘boss’ the Midwives' Institute are highly elated at the publication of the report of the Select Committee on the Midwives' question, and no doubt they flatter themselves that the Bill they have prepared to legalise the practice of midwifery by partially educated women will speedily become law. But I would have them not to be too sanguine. To get a favourable report from a carefully-selected Committee of sympathisers is an easy matter when compared with the task of pushing a Bill through Parliament, which, practically, repeals the Medical Acts. I venture to prognosticate that when the Bill, which the promoters of the Midwives' Institute have up their sleeve, sees the light, it will meet with such opposition that it will have no chance of passing. As for the so-called inquiry, it was little better than a farce, the whole thing being engineered and manipulated so as to make it appear that there was an urgent public demand for legal recognition of obstetric practice by Midwives.”

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WITH such good fighters as Dr. ROBERT RENTOUL and Dr. LOVELL DRAGE have shown themselves

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to be, Mr. BURDETT, Miss ROSALIND PAGET (the Treasurer of the Midwives' Institute), and her uncle, Mr. WILLIAM RATHBONE (the Chairman of the recent Select Committee on the Midwives' question), will need to gather all their forces for the coming contest.

* * *

It should be borne in mind that the three latter persons were most active opponents of the *principle* of Registration for thoroughly-trained Nurses, and signed divers and sundry petitions against the now triumphant R.B.N.A. Those who oppose the Registration of Midwives will, doubtless, bear this fact in mind.

* * *

DR LOVELL DRAGE writes in last week's *Lancet*:—

“Sirs,—The Select Committee on the Registration of Midwives has sat and reported, and so far as can be judged from the evidence, the country is about as wise as it was before it sat. Now, I was instrumental in obtaining a return relative to statistics and the regulations under which Midwives are allowed to practice in other countries, and I think that a careful perusal of this return, which is headed, ‘Stillbirths in England and other Countries,’ will repay the reader. Dr. RENTOUL drew up the question relating to stillbirths, and I was responsible for the other three relating to Midwives and the death-rate from puerperal troubles. The Select Committee apparently have not thought it worth while to ascertain the results of recognising midwives' practice, but I think it should be understood that the death-rate in the countries where such recognition obtains, is higher than in those where it does not. In Germany, deaths and stillbirths are carefully registered, and midwives practise under strict regulations; yet the puerperal death-rate varies from 7·2 in Baden to 5·14 in Bavaria, and in Prussian towns the death-rate from puerperal fever alone is 2·7 per 1000 births (still and alive). In Ireland, again, where much attention is paid to the training and certificating of Midwives the rate is as high as 7·1 per 1000 of the average number of live births. In this country the rate apparently accepted is 4·9, and judging from the statistics of my own district and other sources, I believe this to be approximately correct; yet we are asked to believe that by registering Midwives our death-rate will be considerably diminished. I cannot close my letter without reference to the want of information possessed by the Registrar-General. Whilst Germany is able to give very full statistics, our official states that he has *no* information as to the rate per 1000 of women who die in their confinements or in the four weeks immediately following, and with reference to the question, ‘Is the bulk of Midwifery practice in their hands?’ he can only refer to a most inaccurate estimate given in a paper which was read to the Obstetrical Society in 1869—i.e., twenty-fours ago.”

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AN Infirmiry Charge-Nurse writes: “I note in a letter of Mr. H. C. BURDETT'S, in the *Pall Mall* of the 25th inst., that among other ‘irresponsible utterances,’ in connection with his fetish the London Hospital, that he falls foul of the Nursing departments of our Poor-law Infirmaries. He says: ‘It is not the voluntary Hospitals, but a considerable number of the rate-supported Institutions which

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