

At a recent meeting at the Storey Institute, Lancaster, the medical profession of the district, including Mr. Colin Campbell, Dr. Brassey Brierley, Dr. W. W. Wingate-Saul, and Mr. P. F. Mannix, uncompromisingly condemned the proposed legalisation of the practice of midwifery by other than those men and women who, in accordance with the Medical Act of 1886, are also possessed of the requisite knowledge of medicine and surgery. The meeting next decided to call upon the General Medical Council to declare "infamous, in a professional respect," the conduct of those practitioners who, in defiance of the resolutions of the Council, continue to sell documents purporting to be "Diplomas," "Certificates," or "Licenses" in "Midwifery," or the "Diseases of Women and Children," or other special subjects (other than ordinary "Nursing") to those persons who have not received a complete medical education as prescribed by the Medical Act, 1886, such documents being a gross imposition on the public.

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THE Winter Programme of the National Home Reading Union is before us. Its object is to develop a taste for recreative and instructive reading among all classes of the community. In the special course of reading it is proposed to study the history, literature, and architecture of the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries. There will be other courses on Browning, on Greek and Roman History and Literature, Modern French, Ethics, Architecture and Physical Geography. Further particulars can be obtained from the Secretary, Miss Mondy, Surrey House, Victoria Embankment, London, W.C.

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ON Monday last, the 14th Annual Congress of the Sanitary Institute opened at Liverpool under the Presidency of Sir Francis S. Powell, M.P. At a luncheon, given at the Adelphi Hotel, the Lord Mayor of the town (the Right Hon. W. B. Bowring), who is also Chairman of the local Committee, in proposing "The Sanitary Institute," assured those present that Liverpool recognised so clearly the value of sanitary science that it could no longer be termed "the black spot on the Mersey."

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The President in his inaugural address restricted himself to a review of public health in England and Wales as affected by law and its administration. The Local Government Board, fully alive to the importance of preventive measures, had, within the last twenty years, authorised the expenditure of large sums of money for sanitary purposes in urban and rural districts. Cholera had not been allowed to successfully find a landing. Among other diseases, phthisis was now regarded as a disease

which was in a considerable measure under control, provided that measures were adopted in time. There was reason to hope that insanity was not on the increase. But in regard to adulteration there is evidence of a strong opinion that fraud, with its consequent danger to health, was still practised. In regard to general sanitation, administration rather than legislation demanded the energies of the sanitary reformer. Much attention required to be drawn to the subject of river pollution, and it was satisfactory to note that the River Pollution Bill would be introduced in the next Session. The subject of pauper children and boarding-out called for discussion. Much remained to be done before slaughter-houses, and arrangements connected therewith, would be wholly satisfactory. The Metropolitan Water Supply still claimed full consideration. In conclusion, the President said: "I see on every side reasons for encouragement, none for holding back. There is everywhere fuller knowledge, riper experience, more sympathy from public opinion. Let us all press on in our great task, each a thoughtful and active worker in his own province. . . . It is our endeavour and our duty to prepare our nation for every trial, to give strength to bear hardship, vigour to conduct the contest, endurance to persist until the victory is gained."

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ON Tuesday there was no general meeting; but five separate sections, all of which were held at University College. Sir W. B. Forwood dealt with the "Sanitation of the Passenger and Mercantile Marine Services." Dr. A. Hill (Birmingham), introduced the subject of "Diseased Meat." Dr. H. Littlejohn (Sheffield), dealt with "The Present Position of the Sewage Disposal System." Dr. Vacher presided over a Conference of Sanitary Inspectors; and Mr. A. M. Fowler, M. Inst. C.E., over the Conference of Municipal and County Engineers.

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THE Ladies' Conference deserves special attention. The Lady Mayoress presided. Mrs. H. Percy Boulnois read a paper on "The Ethics of Sanitation." Miss Squire, a sanitary inspector, condemned the conditions under which dress-makers and laundrymaids were forced to work. Mrs. Gosslett advocated the advantage of including sanitary science among the subjects taught in girls' colleges. Dr. Schofield, in condemning tight lacing, advocated the extension of more thorough physical training, and Miss Lottie Dunn, of the Rational Dress Society, upheld Dr. Schofield in this view. The Countess of Lathom, in distributing prizes to successful students, connected with the Ladies' Sanitary Association, expressed her sympathy with the whole movement.

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