

be that they have been injudicious, and interfered in matters which, in reality, were in the province of the nurse. In any case, we think it behoves them to answer the charge which has been made against them.

#### THE MIDWIVES REGISTRATION BILL.

THIS Bill has been introduced in the House of Commons by Mr. A. de Tatton Egerton, and has been formally read for the first time. While fully recognising that legislation is necessary to protect parturient women from ignorant attendants, we cannot concede that it is advisable that persons having only a very limited experience in one branch of nursing should be legally entrusted with the grave responsibilities which the practice of midwifery entails. We should prefer to see a Bill carried on the broad lines of that proposed by the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association, based on the same principle as that for the registration of medical men, namely, that women must be registered as medical, surgical and obstetric nurses before they are entitled to call themselves qualified in any one of the three branches.

#### EXIT "GLORY."

IN the February number of the *Windsor Magazine* is ended the first book of "The Christian," Mr. Hall Caine's inexcusable hospital farce. The first book closes, our readers will rejoice to hear, with the departure of that undisciplined vulgarian, Glory Quayle, from "Martha's Vineyard," with the words "Here goes for it—Good-bye, hospital nursing!—By-bye, doctor!"—this to the "free and friendly house doctor," to whom she drops a "playful curtsey at the bottom of the steps," before she trips along the street. The young man wonders what will "become of her in this merciless old London." We do not! Anyway, we heartily congratulate the matron of "Martha's Vineyard," described as "a stout lady, with eye of ice, and a mouth of iron," for summarily cutting short the probation of this very undesirable young person in her wild and demoralising nursing career. We rejoice to learn that in their parting interview "Glory gathered up the money (her month's salary), but left the certificate untouched!" We are aware that in some so-called training (?) schools, certificates can be bought after six months' philandering in the wards, in conjunction with a cheque for £27 6s., but we hope it is at "Martha's Vineyard" only, that discharged probationers receive a "certificate" after one month's trial. That the Manager of the *Windsor Magazine* should have paid an abnormal sum for this banal trash is incomprehensible.

#### Nursing Politics.

THE following letter, addressed to the *British Medical Journal*, signed "A Provincial Physician," touches again on the financial aspect of the agitation concerning the attempted depreciation of the trained nurse:—

#### "THE NURSING MANIA."

SIR,—I feel sure that the majority of the profession would heartily endorse the views so ably expressed by Lady Priestley in the last number of the *Nineteenth Century*, and would thoroughly agree with 'F.R.C.P.' as to the financial aspect of the question. If, however, the evil is to be remedied, an appeal must be made to those members of the medical profession who are directly connected with our large hospitals, in whose power it is to decide on the length of training necessary for obtaining a certificate. In the meantime it would be interesting to learn from those who defend the present system of from three to four years' hospital training, with examinations in physiology and anatomy, their reasons for considering such elaborate training necessary. At the hospital with which I am myself connected, I have invariably urged the Committee to allow probationers to be trained for one year, and to give those who wish for one year's training a certificate at the end of that period showing exactly what training they have had."

We think that perhaps the following reasons which we advanced on the points of nursing education and economics, in our reply to Lady Priestley in the *Nineteenth Century*, may be of interest to "A Provincial Physician."

#### NURSING EDUCATION.

"In order to become a nurse, a woman must be, first, at least twenty-two or twenty-three years of age before she can be admitted into a hospital for training. She must produce proofs of unimpeachable character and, in most cases, also of some social position. Very probably she will be required to pay fees of a smaller or larger amount; at any rate, during the term of her training she will be paid a salary which no self-respecting housemaid would accept. After being selected, perhaps out of some forty or fifty applicants, she will be admitted as a probationer. She will then be required to rise about six o'clock in the morning, to live on particularly simple fare, to stand or walk about the wards for ten or eleven hours a day, to do much laborious work which is commonly described as 'menial,' to lift heavy and helpless patients, to perform many offices which are often most repugnant, to witness scenes of suffering and sorrow which are most depressing, to be entrusted with the execution of medical instructions generally requiring technical knowledge and extreme carefulness, and with other responsibility often involving the life and death of a fellow creature; to do all this, and much more which it is unnecessary to particularise, under rigid

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