

body would raise objections. Also no penalty was attached to a person who took the name of a chartered individual. He proposed, therefore, that they should form a company under the Companies' Act and the Board of Trade. A company possessing a trade mark could enforce it, and he proposed that the new company should be called the "Guild of St. Mary."

Miss Jane Wilson, President of the Midwives' Institute, objected to the suggestion, saying that what they had been working for, desired, and would have, was the Bill.

The third resolution ran :—

"That these resolutions be forwarded by the Secretary of the Association to the Lord President of the Council and the Home Secretary."

It was proposed by Mr. Heywood Johnstone, M.P., and seconded by Dr. Humphrey.

All the resolutions were carried by a large majority.

A vote of thanks to Mrs. Creighton for presiding, proposed by Dr. Godson, and seconded by Mrs. Schwann, brought the meeting to a close.

While in principle endorsing the first resolution, we regret that we are unable to support the second, for the reason that no guarantee is given that any longer period of training will be insisted upon than that at present usually demanded by the Lying-in Hospitals, namely, three months. We cannot approve of any Bill for the registration of midwives which does not impose for a fundamental principle the necessity of a general training preceding the special one. Dr. Cullingworth asserted in the course of his remarks that there is no more relation between the five years' training of a medical man and the three months' training of a midwife, than there is between donkeys and carrots. We agree with this view. The medical student does not spend five years in acquiring midwifery experience any more than the midwife does, but what would be thought of a medical student who began his training with a three months' course of midwifery, and then professed himself competent to undertake midwifery work. The comparison here is between donkeys and donkeys, not between donkeys and carrots ; we contend, as we always have contended, that a general training with the midwife in her work, as with the student in his, must precede the special one in order that she may gain the self-reliance, coolness in emergencies, and discipline, which can only be acquired in the course of a prolonged training. In addition to this the pupil midwife is in a far more receptive condition for acquiring special knowledge if she does not have to learn the elementary principles of nursing, as well as the special practical and theoretical work required of her in the very

short period devoted to her midwifery training. We are told that the question of the length of training necessary for a midwife is to be left to the Midwives' Board, but this is, in our opinion, insufficient and unsatisfactory. Should the Bill become law, and the Midwives' Board afterwards agree that a training of three months was sufficient, there would be no redress. We are unable, therefore, to support this or any other Bill which does not guarantee that the training of midwives shall be thorough and adequate, and by this we mean that a general training is included in the curriculum.

Our American Letter.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT).

AMONG the most recent events of interest to nurses have been the annual meeting of the Superintendents Society and the second and final meeting of the convention called to organise a National Association, both of which were held in Baltimore, Maryland, in the second week of February.

They met at the same time and place because twelve members of the former body were also delegates to the latter, and it was convenient to accomplish two pieces of work at one time. But now that the purpose of the convention has been fulfilled, the convention, following the natural order of things, dies a natural death.

The National Association is formed, and in the future its annual meetings will be determined by its Executive Committee without reference to the movements of any other body.

It is not improbable that hereafter the Society of Superintendents may time its meetings so as to fall in with those of the National Association, for, though no official relation now obtains between the two, yet no doubt there will be members of one who wish to attend the other as delegates, officers, or permanent members.

It is much to be hoped that the National Association will be a success. It is too soon to forecast its future, but however it may develop, with the Superintendents' Society must remain the credit of its inception. The interest of the Society in the National Association is a purely unselfish one. The suspicion arising from one or two corners that the Superintendents might try to "run" the Association is entirely unfounded. Their only wish is to see it well started, and to have nurses at large take an intelligent and active part in promoting its usefulness. Their own Society gives them as much extra work as they care for, outside their schools. Indeed, the National Association should in time relieve them of the consideration of general questions, thus permitting their time and attention to be given wholly to school and hospital management. In former years, for instance, the Superintendents' Society has given much time and thought to nurses' Directories. Hereafter, a National Association should wrestle with that problem. In like manner have perplexities connected with nursing quackery and imposition come before them. These,

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