

ing hospitals should be publicly insulted by the Middlesex clique if they dare to express an opinion, and that these women have it in their power to prevent our letters being read to the General Council, is placing matrons in a most humiliating position. None of my nurses have joined the Association since the *ex officio* matrons were deprived of their seats, and if you had not advised us not to resign, I should have done so long ago."

THE MIDWIVES QUESTION.

One hundred and thirty-nine candidates passed the examination of the London Obstetrical Society in July.

It will be observed that in the Obstetric Nurses Bill, drawn up by the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association, it is proposed that the Registration Board shall consist of "twenty-four registered medical practitioners," so that it is proposed to deprive midwives (or obstetric nurses) of any voice or control in their own professional affairs. Surely the members of the Midwives' Institute, the prime movers in the agitation for registration of midwives, are not going to accept without protest such an ignominious solution to the "midwives question." If the women who have posed as the protectors of the interests of the midwife, intend to desert their cause at this crisis, we are of opinion that their conduct cannot be too severely condemned. A calling worthy of legal status, is surely worthy of some small modicum of self-control.

Under the suggested Bill we presume all the registration fees paid by midwives will find their way into medical pockets; we see no provision in the Bill for surplus fees being utilised for the benefit of the midwives themselves. We are of opinion that *Nursing Notes* would be showing more genuine interest in the real welfare of the class for which it caters if it reprinted the proposed Bill, than in making silly suggestions that the Bye-laws of the Royal British Nurses' Association should be so altered as to secure the hushing up of its deliberations.

The great free press of this country, with very few exceptions, have exposed the Royal British Nurses' Association scandal during the past month in no uncertain terms, and the future welfare of the nursing profession, and the safety of the public, largely depend upon the determination of the Press to make a repetition of the past mismanagement of the Association quite impossible in the future; and this we have no doubt it will do.

Obstetric Nurses Registration Bill.

(Continued from page 71.)

7. *Training and Examination of Candidates.*—(1) For the purpose of the examination of women desiring to act as obstetric nurses the Board shall as soon as may be after the passing of this Act frame rules regulating the conditions of admission to examination, the course of study to be pursued previous to examination, the method, the period, and the subjects of such examinations, and the general standard to be attained by women passing the examinations.

(2) Evidence of attendance on a course of lectures on, or of practical instruction in, obstetric nursing shall not be accepted as entitling the holder to enter for the pass examination, unless such lectures and practical instruction shall have been given personally by a registered medical practitioner.

8. *Confirmation of Rules.*—The Board shall submit all rules approved by them to the Privy Council for confirmation, and the rules, when so confirmed, shall be forthwith officially published under the superintendence of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

9. *Fees and Expenses.*—There shall be payable by every woman presenting herself for examination such fee as the Board may from time to time determine. Should a candidate fail to pass, the fee paid by her for any subsequent examination shall not exceed half the amount of the first fee. All the expenses of the Board, and such as are necessary for carrying out the requirements of this Act, shall be defrayed by the Board, and all moneys paid in respect of fees or otherwise shall be paid to the Treasurer of the Board.

10. *Register of Obstetric Nurses.*—The Board shall provide by their regulations for the keeping and the publication from time to time of a Register of Obstetric Nurses.

11. *Publication of Register.*—The Board shall cause a new edition of the Register kept by them under this Act to be printed and published before the end of January in each year, and a copy of such Register for the time being shall be evidence in all courts that the women therein specified are registered according to the provisions of this Act; and the absence of the name of any woman from such copy shall be evidence until the contrary be made to appear that such woman is not registered according to the provisions of this Act, unless evidence is produced that such persons have been disregistered, when the onus of proof of re-registration or restoration shall lie upon the respondent. Provided always that in the case of any woman whose name does not appear in such copy, a certified copy under the hand of the Registrar of the entry of the name of such woman on the Register shall be evidence that such woman is registered under the provisions of this Act.

12. *Notice of Death of Obstetric Nurses.*—The local registrar of deaths shall at once transmit the notice of death of any obstetric nurse in his district to the Registrar of the Board, with particulars of time and place of death, and may charge the cost of such certificate and transmission as an expense of his office, and on receipt of such certificate the Registrar shall erase the name of such deceased obstetric nurse from the Register.

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