

adopted whereby women, no more efficiently educated than heretofore, do the work, while medical men are nominally responsible for it. If the Midwives' Institute countenances or permits midwives being placed in this position, under a board of medical men, without representation of the midwives themselves, we can only say that we, as women, dissent. Such a proceeding would be most injurious to the interests of all women, while in the interests of midwives to countenance or desire legislation which will perpetuate the present unsatisfactory conditions, and in no way raise the standard of training, is to betray the interests of the midwives, who naturally look to their professional association to act with a due consideration of their welfare.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

WE observe with much satisfaction that a nurse from the Trained Nurses' Home, Catherine Street, Liverpool, has recently been successful in obtaining, in a court of law, a week's quarantine fee, which the defendant, the father of the nurse's patient (a child who died of an infectious complaint) declined to pay. According to the rules of the Home, the nurse remained in quarantine for a week, and took no other engagement. The Judge said the rule was a very good and important one, and gave judgment for the amount claimed, with costs.

It is obvious that, for the protection of the public, it is essential that nurses who have been in attendance upon infectious cases, should be isolated until all danger of infection be past. It is also only fair that the patient, and not the nurse, should pay for this quarantine. Even supposing the full fee of £2 2s. is paid, this will not more than cover the expense of board, lodging, travelling expenses and washing, and the nurse is consequently £2 2s. out of pocket for each week she spends in quarantine. For this reason, many nurses decline to undertake to nurse infectious cases, as, even though the fees they obtain for these are higher than for ordinary cases, they are the losers by doing so. It has been said that the fees for infectious cases were originally raised in order to cover the cost of the necessary subsequent expenses; but it must be remembered that every time a nurse attends a case of this description, she runs the danger of becoming infected with the disease, and, therefore, of incurring the expense of a long illness. For this reason, we think it is only right that the

fees charged for infectious cases should be upon a higher scale than for ordinary medical and surgical cases.

The decision of the judge, in the present instance, is a most important one, and should strengthen the hands of those institutions which, by conscientiously imposing, when necessary, a period of quarantine, protect the public from very grave danger. That some institutions are culpably careless in this respect we are well aware. One instance, at least, in which a nurse was sent out from a private nursing institution to attend a serious case, immediately upon her return from nursing a case of scarlet fever, without disinfection, has come under our personal observation. We hope, therefore, that this decision will have the effect of lessening the difficulty experienced, by those institutions which enforce a period of quarantine, of obtaining the fees due to the nurse for this time.

PUBLIC CHARITY.

AT a Quarterly General Court of the Governors of the Middlesex Hospital, a tender of £11,647, for extending the medical school buildings, was considered, and accepted. It will be remembered that a short time ago, owing to the position of the Medical School of this Hospital, the Governors were compelled to make themselves responsible for its financial management. Usually a medical school is more than self-supporting, and, very rightly, a source of emolument to the staff of the Hospital who act as lecturers; but where a school fails for any reason, to command the confidence of the public, and to attract a sufficient number of students to its ranks, to enable it to pay its way, its continuance means that it is a burden upon the institution with which it is connected. It is well, therefore, for contributors to the funds of the Middlesex Hospital, to realize that their subscriptions, at least in part, go towards the maintenance of the Medical School. We think it would be well if the Committee of the Middlesex Hospital were to open two funds, one for contributions towards the funds of the Hospital itself, and the other for the support of the Medical School. Those members of the public who desired to pay for the education of other people's sons, would then have an opportunity of doing so; but we are of opinion that it is not right to devote to this purpose funds which are subscribed to a public charity.

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