

There can be little doubt that this principle is one of great importance to the public; and it is difficult to believe that Parliament will consent to any lower standard in the case of women, than it has determined to be necessary in the case of men. There can be no dispute for example, that, if an Act of Parliament were passed legalising the practice of midwifery, by women qualified in midwifery alone, the doom of medical women would practically be sealed. Assuming, however, that such a retrograde step would not be taken, and that a midwifery licence will only be gained in future, as at present, by those who have passed through the entire medical curriculum, the claims which the advocates of midwives have been so anxious to establish, to independent practice, is completely destroyed. It then remains only that midwives in future must be recognised as midwifery nurses; in other words, they must be trained as nurses.

Then the logical conclusion would be that those who desired to undertake midwifery work must obtain a preliminary general training in nursing, and their special maternity education subsequently. It is argued by some that, just as medical men must be educated in all three branches of their calling, so all nurses must be trained in medical, surgical, and obstetric work. The great drawback to this, at present, is the chaotic condition of nursing education, and the absence of facilities for maternity training at our general hospitals. If nursing matters were organised upon a proper footing there would be no difficulty, and the poor would obtain the greatest advantages. Nurses could spend part of their hospital curriculum in a lying-in hospital, or in the maternity wards of a workhouse infirmary. For the present, however, while on the one hand there is a great wealth of educational material in these institutions—so to speak wasted—on the other hand, there are only a comparatively few nurses who can find admission to the special courses of instruction in maternity institutions.

The London Obstetrical Society could do a great deal for the public, and for the profession alike, in this matter. It has done much in the past to raise the tone and education of midwives; the time has surely now come when it could with advantage recognise the altered conditions of the nursing world. If the Society would make it necessary for candidates for its diploma to have had at least three years' hospital training in nursing, it would immensely elevate the class of candidates for its license,

and we believe would thereby take a step which would greatly enhance its own reputation and be to the incalculable advantage of the public. There is no doubt that the Society is not advancing now as rapidly as it formerly did. Whilst educational facilities and improvements are increasing on every side, the Society is satisfied with requirements which were excellent ten years ago, but which are antiquated to-day. All who are desirous to see the standard of maternity nursing improved, must hope, therefore, that the London Obstetrical Society which formerly did so much in this direction, will now advance with the times, and do still more.

Annotations.

A MODERN SQUEERS.

THE peculiarly horrible conduct of Mr. Denyar, the schoolmaster of Chase Farm Workhouse Schools, Enfield, in first thrashing a boy, aged twelve, and when he cried, thrusting the cane down his throat, and thus puncturing a tonsil, must be severely dealt with, and the Edmonton Guardians must not attempt to retain this inhumane man in charge of defenceless children. We gather from a report issued by the Guardians that although they have satisfied themselves that Mr. Denyar "has been in the habit of using the cane much too freely and in absolute contravention to the regulations," that his only punishment is to be: "That Mr. Denyar be severely censured for his treatment of the boy Harscher; and that the increase in the salary of Mr. Denyar from £130 to £140 per annum, which should take place on July 12th, 1899, should be deferred until July 12th, 1900." This will not do—helpless children must be protected from men of cruel instincts and uncontrollable temper—and we warmly congratulate Mrs. Macy and Mr. Broodbank, members of the Board, in proposing and seconding an amendment that the shocking treatment of this poor boy should be reported to the Local Government Board. We hope Mr. Denyar will be at once dismissed from the responsible position which he now holds.

THE DANGER OF DIRT.

THE Night Nurse of the Barnsley Workhouse Infirmary has recently resigned her position, mainly on the ground that she is "compelled to wear one stuff-dress in the wards of the Infirmary for one quarter, and no other, allowing no change in attending the sick, lying-in, and dirty cases, and in laying

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