

A Presentation.

ON Wednesday, March 29th last, a meeting was held at the Lambeth Infirmary for the purpose of presenting a testimonial to Miss Kerr, the Assistant Matron, who has resigned her position.

The Matron (Miss Griffiths) presided, and the occasion excited so much interest that there was a remarkably numerous attendance of Nurses.

The Chaplain (the Rev. T. H. Ledle) having been called upon by Miss Griffiths to give expression to the thoughts and feelings both of those present and the-subscribers, briefly addressed the meeting.

He referred to the fact that, although Miss Kerr's official career in the Infirmary had extended to but little beyond three years, yet the influence of her high character and pleasing disposition had made a deep impression during that short period. He well knew the estimation in which she was held by the Nurses, for a strict devotion to duty, yet always tempered by an agreeable manner, and a willingness to help them to the utmost. He also spoke of the testimonies of many patients, to the gentle and kind manner in which Miss Kerr had always treated them. He laid special stress upon the power for good which Miss Kerr had been in the Institution, and how she gave everyone the impression of a character strong in its endowments yet winning and attractive.

The speaker then pleasantly touched upon the circumstance that Miss Kerr was not leaving for the purpose of taking a similar position, but was shortly about to be married; so that the intended gifts must be regarded in the light of wedding presents. On behalf of the meeting he wished Miss Kerr all happiness and prosperity.

The presentations consisted of the following: A solid silver afternoon tea service of elegant design, the gift of the Medical Officers and the Nurses. The next presentation consisted of a solid silver salver. This was the special gift of the Matron. In making this presentation the Chaplain dwelt upon the pleasing fact that the Matron and Miss Kerr had worked together in constant harmony, and that the Matron had borne her testimony that she had always found in Miss Kerr a most kind and valuable helper. Another presentation followed from Dr. and Mrs. Quarry. This was a pair of jam spoons, also of silver in a rich case. Yet another gift was from the servants of the Institution, a fine cut glass water jug.

These presentations being duly made, Miss Kerr rose, and speaking with evident emotion, but in well chosen and appropriate terms, thanked all the donors for their kind wishes and valuable and noble gifts.

The Midwives' Bill.

THE Parliamentary Bills Committee of the General Medical Council have debated the report submitted to them by a sub-committee concerning the Midwives Bill, and with a few verbal alterations adopted it by an almost unanimous vote.

The principal differences between the Bill of the Midwives Bill Committee and the British Medical Association are the following:—

THE MIDWIVES' BILL COMMITTEE.

Midwife undertakes for gain to attend women in childbirth.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

Midwife undertakes for gain to attend women during natural labour and the lying-in period under the rules, regulations, and medical control, etc., set forth in the Act.

Midwife is debarred from employing an unlicensed substitute.

Restricts privileges to attendance in cases of natural labour only in accordance with rules, etc., to be laid down; prevents the assumption of title "Licentiate in Midwifery"; penalises the giving of still-birth or death, or any medical certificates, and provides that fees shall not be recoverable if unlicensed deputy used.

Makes L.O.S. and L.M. certificates entitle to licence without other evidence.

Board to be constituted of members representing London Corporations, Midwives Institute and Privy Council.

Makes Board sole judge of certificate which shall entitle to licence, and requires evidence of good character in all cases.

Board to be elected by General Medical Council, and to be representative of districts, with one representative of the Privy Council.

Teachers and instructors of midwives may not serve on Board.

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