

their characters or have as full consideration for other people as they might under easier and serener circumstances have shown. Among pioneers in nursing also may sometimes be noticed this fibre of concentrated intensity in one direction, with something of indifference or contempt for the work of other people.

The medical women of to-day gain their diplomas under pleasanter conditions, and there is more "sweetness and light" in their minds, and they have time to cultivate the grace of regard for others which does so much to beautify life. A few days ago, in New York City, a nurse was invited to speak before alumnae of a well-known medical college for women on "The Aims of Nurses and the Progress of the Nursing Profession." The story of the gradual advance of the nurse along educational, ethical and social lines was told, what her aspirations are, and what her claims for herself and for the dignity of her work. The young medical women listened with cordial interest and sympathy. Instances like this prove the correctness of your words. With more knowledge of each other we shall be mutually benefited.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours cordially, AMERICA.

The Midwives' Bill.

THE second reading of the Midwives' Bill, which stood as the second order at the sitting of the House of Commons on Wednesday, 28th ult., was not reached until after the time for the discussion of contested business, and when formal objection was taken, the order was postponed. Notice of a motion for the rejection of the measure has been given by Mr. T. P. O'Connor. Altogether, there seems little chance of progress being made with the Bill this session. Private members' Bills, which can always be blocked, have scant opportunities in these days, and, when they affect the interests of women, they are constantly shelved. All the same, we think it is a matter for congratulation that the Midwives' Bill, in its present form, has not been passed. We have always maintained that midwives were a product of an unscientific age, when the professions of medicine and nursing did not exist, but now that these have evolved and organized, the midwife specialist has no longer any *locus-standi*, but must eventually be absorbed into the profession of medicine or nursing. As legislation for any class of specialists must be inimical to the interests of nurses as a class, we hope that the present Bill for licensing midwives will be abandoned for one on broader lines.

THE Matron of the British Lying-in Hospital writes:—

"The student mentioned in your paper of March 3rd has, *under supervision*, attended twice the number of cases required by the London Obstetrical Society. That it is a common prac-

tice to allow inexperienced students, of both sexes, to attend midwifery cases, is a fact much to be deplored, but the authorities of the British Lying-in Hospital never allow a student to attend a case alone until she has, *under supervision*, attended the number required for the examination of the Obstetrical Society of London. Until there is a legal qualification for midwives, who can say when 'student' ends and 'midwife' begins?"

We are glad to receive the assurance that the students at the British Lying-in Hospital now attend the number of cases required by the London Obstetrical Society under supervision. This is a great step in the right direction. But, we maintain, that until a pupil has had her knowledge tested by examination, and received the certificate of her training school, or, preferably, of the London Obstetrical Society, she should not be permitted to attend midwifery cases alone, any more than a medical student is allowed to practise as a medical man until he receives his diploma. Both may fail to give evidence of possessing the requisite knowledge when they present themselves for examination, and until they can produce a certificate as evidence of their qualifications, they should be considered "*in statu pupillari*." We deplore, in common with our correspondent, the fact that inexperienced medical students are allowed to attend midwifery cases. It is an injustice to the poor which should not be permitted.

A Scientific Phenomenon.

IT is reported that Miss Vanderwater, a nurse at Toronto, had a vision of the recent attack made on Cronje's laager at Paardeberg, where her brother was severely wounded. Readers of the *NURSING RECORD*, who will remember that after Omdurman a correspondent wrote describing the impressions which a friend had received of the battle, while it was raging, and before any description of the fight had been sent home, will be interested in this occurrence. In the case of Omdurman, the lady had no friends at the front, and no interest in the Soudan Campaign beyond an intense sense of patriotism. Her vision of the hand to hand fighting with steel of the 21st Lancers was, therefore, very remarkable. There are those who are inclined to scoff at second sight, and to doubt its existence, but there can be no doubt as to its reality in the minds of those who have experienced it. Scepticism is usually a form of ignorance. Those who have their doubts as to this phenomenon should endeavour to discover the scientific laws which govern its existence.

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