

mound and gave orders to march. At the railroad station at Harrison's Landing, soldiers were being loaded on the train, and Miss Dame insisted that the sick ones should have the first chance for accommodations. She won her point.

During the second Bull Run campaign, Miss Dame had her headquarters at Stone Church. Near there she was taken prisoner and marched to the headquarters of Stonewall Jackson, who, after listening to her story and learning her mission within the lines, ordered a guard of eight picked men to escort her to the Northern lines. She soon after organized the New Hampshire Relief Association, and was sent by Governor Gilmore to South Carolina to investigate the condition of the Northern soldiers. Her mission was opposed strongly by Miss Dorothy Dix and others, on the ground that it was dangerous for a woman. But Miss Dame was obdurate and started on her journey. The result of her investigations was embodied in a report to Surgeon-General Barnes, who promptly ordered that the convoys Argo and Fulton be converted into hospital ships, and they were the first ones used in such service.

At the battle of Gettysburg, Miss Dame did gallant service on the field, and the week following the close of that great battle organized the New Hampshire Soldiers' Relief Association. In the spring of 1864 she took the field with the Army of the James and during the Cold Harbour Campaign she had headquarters at White House and later at the Eighteenth Corps Field Hospital at Broadway Landing on the Appomattox. From there she issued supplies, gave orders and sent messengers. With the surrender of the Confederate army and the cessation of hostilities, she remained with the regiment until its disbandment, and then returned to Washington.

In 1867, through the efforts of Mr. Chandler, of New Hampshire, and in recognition of her great services on the field, she was appointed to a place in the Currency Division of the Treasury Department, and remained there until 1895, when she returned to Concord. A few years ago she presented the Second New Hampshire Regiment with a handsome building at The Weirs, N. H., where the annual reunions are now held. At the recent States encampment of the Grand Army in Concord, resolutions were passed by the veterans expressing their deep regret at her illness.

When the Army Nurses' Association was organized in Washington a few years ago, Miss Dame was elected President, and has held that office ever since. She was also a member of the Woman's Relief Corps. With her death, another nursing pioneer passes to her rest.

The Midwife Question.

THE Association for Promoting the Compulsory Registration of Midwives—or, as it should rather be, the Annual Licensing of Midwives, but the Society, for some incomprehensible reason has, while abandoning the principle of registration, retained its original title—has petitioned Mr. Arthur Balfour, First Lord of the Treasury, to facilitate the progress of the Midwives' Bill, so that it may become law in the course of the present session of Parliament. The Association further states that it has obtained the permission of 134 medical officers of health "to print and publish their names as in favour of legislation for the compulsory registration midwives." It does not follow, however, that they are in favour of the present measure.

A medical man, writing to the *British Medical Journal*, under the pseudonym "Crux," complains that he was recently called in to a confinement case, for which he had previously been engaged, to find the child dead and quite cold. The "nurse" in attendance stated that the child had been partially born for twenty minutes. Asked why she did not send for medical assistance, she replied that "until the legs were born she did not know it was a breech presentation, and that although she is a so-called trained midwife and supplied by a village nursing association, she had never been taught to examine." The "nurse" further stated that "this was the first occasion on which a doctor had been present at a confinement with her, and that she had always managed quite well before, and that the ladies of her committee say that she ought not to require a doctor at a confinement." The medical man rightly "mentioned the matter to the Coroner," who would have held an inquest had this been possible, but was confronted by the difficulty that he could not enquire into the cause of death of what had never lived," so the medical attendant gave a certificate on the usual form for still-born children.

If the position of the Coroner is as he conceives it to be, it is one which needs revision, for the plain facts are that a grossly ignorant woman may, with impunity, kill a child by her ignorance, and if that child has not had a separate existence from its mother, the law cannot touch her. On the other hand, if a midwife, who knows her work, resuscitates an apparently still-born child, and keeps it alive for some hours by reason of her skill, but it not able to secure the attendance of a doctor before its death, she is liable to be summoned, and probably is summoned, to appear at the Coroner's Court. Surely the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)