

incompetent woman should not be allowed to go scot free. We would suggest, as the first reform required for her control, the compulsory registration of still-births, and that Coroners should be invested with the power to hold inquests into such cases at their discretion.

With regard to the case reported above, we think, had we been in the position of the medical man, we should have refused to give a certificate. It must be noted that the woman to whose conduct he takes just exception, if the facts of the case are as he reports, is referred to, both by himself and by our contemporary, as "the nurse." We must, however, decline to acknowledge her as a member of the nursing profession until some proof of her training as a nurse is forthcoming. Trained nurses who are qualified midwives, do not undertake cases for which the services of a medical man have been engaged to his exclusion. If called in first, they merely notify him that his services are required. Further, we should imagine that midwives would repudiate as a colleague one who had "never been taught to examine." As for the ladies' committee, it is, presumably, composed of persons who have never had any experience of nursing whatsoever; but this does not excuse their sending out incompetent women as nurses, and instructing them that they "ought not to require a doctor at a confinement." If "Crux" would state where this "nurse" received (1) her general, and (2) her midwifery, training, and (3) what is the name of the Ladies' Committee under which she works, he would be doing good service. It is useless to show up abuses without bringing them home to the persons concerned. It is unjust to nurses who conscientiously qualify themselves for the work they undertake, that they should be saddled with the incompetence of women who possess the merest smattering of nursing knowledge.

The outcome of the blunders made by inadequately trained persons who undertake the serious responsibility of attending midwifery cases, and who hold in their inexperienced hands the lives of both mother and infant, will be, we believe, to point to the necessity for midwives to be graduates in general nursing. As was ably pointed out at the Nursing Conference, held in connection with the International Congress of Women last year, the time has gone by for the recognition of any persons as attendants on the lying-in woman except the medical practitioner and the trained nurse. The evolution of these two scientific professions has shown that there is no room for those who are specialists only, in either calling. A general education must always precede the special one.

Nursing Echoes.

* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



THE first week in July is assuming the importance of the Nursing Week in the nursing world, and this year the 5th, 6th, and 7th of July will find many earnest Matrons and nurses meeting together for profit and pleasure.

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AT 11 a.m. on Thursday, the 5th, the Provisional Committee of the International Council of Nurses is to meet at the Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C., when the Constitution, drawn up by request, by the British members, and sent to and considered by the American, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, and Danish members, will be discussed and adopted, the Hon. Officers for the first Quinquennial period appointed, and work begun. It is good news that the suggestion of an International Council of Nurses has been so warmly received by those consulted, and, no doubt, its first work of importance will be to help forward the scheme for an International Congress of Nurses, to meet in the States in September, 1901, to celebrate the new century, and to facilitate means for a good attendance of delegates from the old world. It is probable that a Nursing Exhibition will be held at Buffalo at the time of the Congress, and the selection of this fine city, so near the borders of Canada for the great gathering, will enable our Canadian Sisters to assemble in force.

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BUT to return to London, the Matrons' Council holds its first session in Annual Conference at 3 p.m. on Thursday, 5th June, the Quarterly Council Meeting takes place at 11 a.m. on the 6th, and it is hoped that all members from a distance will find seats at luncheons, to be given by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, and Mrs. Walter Spencer, at 35, Brook Street. The second session will be held at 3 p.m. on the 6th.

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ON Saturday the 7th, a General Meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses will be held at the hospital at 3 p.m., which will resolve itself into a social gathering from 4.30 to 7 p.m. How long will it be, we wonder,

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