

Annotations.

THE HEAT WAVE.

South African Hospitals, Mr. Balfour's temper in the House, the dignified bearing of Mr. Burdett Coutts, China horrors, and every other consideration "have been quite put in the shade by the blazing, burning sun," so says a charming friend from the Emerald Isle. Any way, the heat wave has been the topic of conversation during the week. Doctors have kindly given their professional opinion gratis to the readers of the dailies, and as one piece of advice usually contradicts the last, no great harm has been done. But it is interesting for a person with the temperament of the salamander to take her walks abroad because conventional London has presented quite a new aspect under a temperature of 100 degrees of heat. Of the first importance, of course, were clothes. First, the hideous, glossy "chimney pot" hat no longer makes the *comme il faut* man ridiculous—by magic it disappeared, and in its place we find the becoming Panama-Tyrolese hat, bound with a black ribbon, jauntily worn a shade to one side, in conjunction with a black alpaca coat, a white waistcoat and trousers, and the average man, for once, attired with common sense. Women's fashions might have been instinctively arranged for such a season. Of course, we know they were not, and that our vain and charming sex would have braved the lowest temperature in the transparent, lacey nothings which constitute the fashionable bodice, and the airy silken skirts which smartness has decreed. Then the man who is merciful to his beast has come well to the fore, and the horses have been wearing such dainty, beribboned little hats, through which their sensitive ears twitch knowingly, and under which they hang their graceful necks in a most modish way, just like a pretty miss in her early teens. Poor dears! in spite of every care, pretty hats and nice cool oatmeal drinks, those hitched to great lumbering omnibuses have suffered intensely from the heat, and it was quite a pathetic sight to see one of these willing beasts sigh deeply and then slip down gently in a dead faint on the road, greatly to the consternation of the panting human cargo comfortably seated on top, and it needed much care and coaxing before it came round—plenty of cold-water sponging on its head and in its ears, and pats and pretty words, before it

opened its tragic eyes and, with another pathetic sigh, got on its tottering legs and again bent its back to the burden. Patient, noble creature!

MORE ABOUT MIDWIVES.

The Registration of Midwives was an aspect of the midwife question quite intelligible to the average person, and the Association for Promoting Compulsory Registration for Midwives, had the genuine sympathy of many women, but immediately this Association was ill advised enough to throw over the *principle of registration*, and acceded to the dangerous proposition of the opposers of registration, to licence midwives annually, it cut the ground from under its own feet—ground which it will never be able to regain. At the recently held general meeting of the Association, held at the residence of Lady Lucy Hicks-Beach—Mr. Heywood Johnstone, M.P., gave a full account of the operations during the past year, and advised those interested in the subject to stand firm for the training and supervision of midwives—and not to trouble about details. Now the training and supervision of professional women workers are details of the very greatest importance and one gross fault of the late Bill, was the total lack of all provision for an educational standard for midwives, or the definition of supervision. The Bill simply attempted to grasp a monopoly of work in districts for *licenced* midwives—whether these women were popular with persons resident there or no—at the same time compelling the so-called midwives to renew the Licence yearly, a most vexatious and restrictive piece of legislation. It appears that this Association has not learnt much wisdom from the criticism both in and out of the Commons, to which their Bill has been subjected, as after accepting the report, Dr. Percy Boulton moved a resolution praying the Duke of Devonshire to bring before the Cabinet, the desirability of affording their Bill special facilities in the next Session of Parliament, and this was carried.

We think, however, that Parliament is not at all likely, either to legislate for midwifery specialists, or to place women in such a defenceless and dangerous position, as a system of annual licencing would do. Again we commend to the wisdom of Parliament the necessity of passing a Bill to register Trained Nurses, which would include the thoroughly qualified obstetric nurse, and do away with the anomalous untrained midwife, for whom there is now no place.

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