

Friedrich August, who was one of the Austrian Archduchesses, has been learning a number of things connected with ambulance work and sick nursing at the Lutheran Hospital at Dresden. Her Royal Highness has attended operations and applied bandages with her own hands. The Queen of Saxony has always taken a great interest in these matters, especially as regards ambulance work, and during the Franco-Prussian war her Majesty personally superintended the work done by the ladies of Dresden for the comfort of the sick and wounded, rarely having her "charpi" (the threaded lint then so much in use, and now obsolete) out of her hands.

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THE perennial midwife question is again upon us, and as far as we can gather, the supporter of the three months' midwife is as determined as ever to give her legal status. The *status quo* appears to be totally ignored by Registrationists and medical men alike. Now, in the twentieth century, is no time to give legal status to the obsolete midwife practitioner. She has been superseded, in the minds of most intelligent people, by the skilled medical obstetric practitioner, male and female, and by that product of nineteenth century progress, the highly skilled obstetric nurse. No room any more for the hybrid midwife. But eminent medical men have told us that they will support the hybrid in opposition to the skilled obstetric nurse, because she would not be so dangerous a competitor to medical midwifery practice! We, however, have nothing to do with that phase of the question. We claim for the *poor* lying-in woman the scientific skill at the command of the sick rich, and this aid in her hour of travail can easily be provided for even the very poorest, through an intelligent extension of the Queen's Jubilee Nurses' Institute or by Municipal managers. Oh! for women in high places to deal with questions of national importance. We are so tired of twaddle, and the muddling of the midwife question may well call blushes to the celibate brow of the Leader of the Commons.

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WE find a glimmer of light in a letter from "Senior G.P." in last week's *British Medical Journal*, who writes:—"What a lying-in woman requires, above all, next to a bed in sanitary surroundings, is not a peripatetic Sairey Gamp, more or less qualified (with a big Q), nor even a doctor, also more or less qualified (with a little q), but a nurse—a clean, handy, intelligent person—trained, if such can be afforded; but if not, one sufficiently docile to carry out instructions." This same gentleman naively remarks that he does not remember to have seen this practical suggestion put forward!!

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



LADY PORTSMOUTH has appealed through the columns of the Press for the support of the public for an anti-vivisection hospital, which, it is hoped, may be opened during the present year. The medical service will be carried on only by persons pledged to anti-vivisection principles, and the nurses will be sought for among women by whom such a principle is recognised. The house which it is proposed to utilize for this purpose, is one known as Lancaster Tower, in Albert Bridge Road, Battersea.

We hardly know our *Charity Record* in its enlarged condition and pretty pale grey cover. We congratulate the able Editor upon its evident progress, and have no hesitation in recommending this paper as an unbiassed and excellent medium from which the charitable may seek advice in distributing their golden guineas. It is conducted irrespective of backsheesh and booms.

The Sanitary Institute has issued the syllabus of its 31st course of Lectures and demonstrations for Sanitary Officers to be held at the Parkes Museum in February, March, and April.

The course will comprise the following Lectures:—Part I.—Four lectures on Elementary Physics and Chemistry in relation to Water, Soil, Air, and Ventilation, and Meteorology.

Twenty-one lectures on Public Health Statutes; Orders, Memoranda, and Model By-Laws of the Local Government Board and the By-Laws in force in the Administrative County of London.

The practical duties of a Sanitary Inspector, *e.g.*, drawing up notices as to Sanitary Defects, Drain-testing, Disinfection, Methods of Inspection, Note-taking, Reporting, and Elementary Statistics.

Municipal Hygiene or Hygiene of Communities, including Prevention and Abatement of Nuisances, Sanitary Defects in and about Buildings, and their Remedies, Water Supplies, Sanitary Appliances, Drainage, Refuse Removal and Disposal, Offensive Trades, Disinfection.

Building Construction in its Sanitary relations, Local Physical Conditions. Measurement and drawing plans to scale.

Inspections and Demonstrations will be arranged in connection with the Lectures.

Part II.—Seven Lectures on Meat and Food Inspection, including taking of samples of Water, Food, and Drugs, for Analysis. Practical Demonstrations of Meat Inspection will be given. These Lectures are open to women, and students and others desirous of attending the Lectures are requested to send in their names to the Secretary of the Institute, Margaret Street, W.

The Lord Mayor has consented to preside at a festival dinner to be held in aid of the East London Hospital for Children at Shadwell on the 30th of April in the Grocer's Hall, kindly lent for the occasion by the court of the Company.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)