

tinue as long as the human race lasts is equally certain. Alter their names if you wish or can; call them midwifery nurses or any other appellation you can suggest; license them, register them, restrict them, penalise them as much as you will, but, above all, be fair to them; do not goad them to resistance; allow them, educate and instruct them for the good of the race and the honour of the profession.

I venture to predict that the time will come when the Government of the day will have to take up the subject and propound a Midwives' Bill. The voice of public opinion will be behind it. "Great is Diana of the Ephesians" will then be a useless cry. The tide sweeps forwards; it will be ours to ride on the crest of the wave if we so will; but it will also be open to us to attempt to stem its force, and to find too late that the power was irresistible."

We are quite of opinion that sooner or later the practice of midwifery, by whomsoever undertaken, must be regulated by the State. It remains for the medical and nursing professions to see that such legislation is based on wise and sound principles. Neither profession can afford to ignore a question which touches both so vitally.

Our position with regard to it has consistently been that midwifery work must be recognized in the future as the province of either medical practitioners or trained nurses. There is no room at the present day for specialists as such, still less would it be wise to legislate for them. As colleges of medicine decline to bestow diplomas to practise midwifery upon those who are not also qualified in medicine and surgery, so trained nurses strongly object to the recognition of the specialist midwife, believing her qualifications insufficient. What is needed is: (1) the passage of a Bill for the State Registration of Medical, Surgical and Obstetric Nurses, which should have the support of both the medical and nursing professions; (2) that nurse training schools should realise their responsibility to their pupils, and to the public, for giving efficient training in obstetric nursing. The amount of knowledge to be required of an obstetric nurse is a detail which could be determined by conference between medical and nursing bodies, but if, following medical lines, a knowledge of obstetric, as well as of medical and surgical nursing, were required as a necessary qualification for registration, the three months' midwife would soon be a thing of the past. We should like to see obstetric nursing amongst the poor organized and controlled by the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, or an analagous body, these nurses working under medical direction.

The National Hospital.

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY.

We are glad that after years of friction between the medical staff and the managers of the National Hospital, Queen's Square, there is now a prospect of harmony. The Committee of Enquiry—which was appointed, upon the demand of the Medical Staff, who presented a statement in writing to the Governors, embodying various grievances, and asking for their investigation and redress—have now issued their Report, and if effect is given to the suggestions which are made as the result of this enquiry the grievances of the Staff will no longer exist.

THE CRUX OF THE QUESTION.

The crux of the whole question as it affects the medical staff, was their demand for representation on the weekly Board.

"The Committee recommend that the Board of Management be increased by the addition of two members chosen by the Medical Committee from the medical staff; that one of these members retire each year, but be eligible for re-election, and the casual vacancies in the two seats be filled up by the Medical Committee."

THE NURSING DEPARTMENT.

We are glad to note that the Committee of Enquiry have a word to say on the question of food brought into the hospital by patients' friends. "They regard the practice as a dangerous one to the discipline of the hospital, and liable to lead to many irregularities. They were told that the food so brought in is kept in the same lockers as the patients' clothes, a practice which they declare to be strongly reprehensible."

The Committee further find that "in some few cases the personal cleanliness of the patients has not received sufficient care, but they do not find anything to convince them that the washing of the patients in bed has been defective." [The appointment of a Superintendent of Nursing on the Committee of Enquiry would have been of much assistance in arriving at a right conclusion on this point, for it is difficult to understand that any of the excellent gentlemen who formed this Committee could arrive at an expert opinion.]

"In some wards the supply of sheets and pillow-cases has been, and is, somewhat deficient. From the early part of last year, and continuously down to the present time, the supply of draw-sheets—which, from the character of the diseases treated, are required in unusually large quantities in this

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