

registered medical practitioner must hold the triple qualification of medicine, surgery, and midwifery. I hope to see the day when the registered nurse will also be compelled to give proof of training in medical, surgical and maternity nursing; but I am dealing with this question to-day as a woman rather than a trained nurse.

1. We cannot *work* in the world without legal status and protection, competition is too keen.
2. We cannot submit without danger to personal liberty to any form of legislation which denies self-government.
3. The worker needs special protection from the employer. This is the only sure basis for just administration of laws which affect industrial and professional workers.
4. All classes of workers other than slaves demand just laws for their protection. All professions and industries, in so far as they affect men, are so protected.
5. Women workers who are disfranchised are more in need than enfranchised men of legal status and just protective laws.

Miss Ross proposed, and Miss Kingsford seconded, that the words "trained nurses" be substituted for "well-trained women." Mrs. Fenwick accepted this amendment, and the resolution, after considerable discussion, was carried unanimously.

It was agreed that copies should be forwarded to Members of Parliament, and to various public bodies, together with a resolution incorporating the views of the Matrons' Council previously expressed in a resolution sent to the London Obstetrical Society.

The Hon. Secretary was directed to write to Mr. Heywood Johnstone, M.P., asking him for a copy of the proposed Bill, so that the Executive Committee might consider its provisions, and be in a position to report upon them at the January meeting of the Council.

Miss Breay said that she thought if, as all were agreed, the Matrons' Council considered a few months' special training insufficient to fit women to undertake the responsible duties of midwives, then the members of the Council should realize the duty of including training in obstetric nursing in the curriculum of the trained nurse. At present although many trained nurses did obtain obstetric training and gain the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society, they met with scant encouragement from their training school with which they usually had to sever their connection in order to enter a special hospital for obstetric training. In the United States the midwife question did not exist, because all the best training schools included obstetric training in the nursing curriculum. Miss Breay thought that we could not logically object to the specialist midwife, much as we might disapprove of her, if we did not endeavour to provide a better article. She would like the Matrons' Council to pledge itself to this endeavour.

Miss Mollett thought that the question was too big a one to thresh out so late in the afternoon.

The next business was to arrange for a special meeting at which addresses should be given by the Buffalo Delegates. The President announced that the Delegates had received a most kind invitation from the Society of American Women in London to attend a Reception at Prince's, given in their honour, and to address the Society. A certain number of tickets had been kindly reserved for members of the Societies represented at the Congress, and she thought this would meet the desire, expressed by various members of the Matrons' Council, that they should have a report of the proceedings. This was unanimously agreed to, and many members availed themselves of the opportunity to obtain tickets after the meeting.

Nominations were then made for the vacancies which annually occur in January in the list of Hon. Officers, and the Hon. Secretary was desired to write to the members nominated asking them to intimate if they were willing to act if appointed.

*(To be continued.)*

### The Midwives' Bill.

We learn from the Hon. Secretary of the Matrons' Council that she is informed by Mr. Heywood Johnstone, that if he obtains a place in the Ballot of next Session the Bill which he will bring in will be "in principle similar to the Midwives' Bill of 1900," and will provide for the training and supervision of women practising as midwives, where no qualified medical practitioner is employed, but he cannot pledge himself to its precise form until he has gone carefully over its provisions with others interested in the matter. Mr. Johnstone also points out that on all questions of detail the final shape of the Bill really depends upon the draftsman of the Government of the day.

We gather that the form of the Bill is not yet definitely settled, and therefore we may hope that the criticisms of trained nurses would receive due consideration if offered, and secondly, that the Bill will still contain the dangerous clause as to annual licensing which has been substituted for the original proposal of registration, and also, it is still proposed, to place midwives under the control of County Councils, and County Borough Councils on which women are ineligible to sit. Further, that there is no guarantee that even one midwife shall have a seat on the so-called central "Midwives' Board." Both these points should receive the earnest attention of Women's Societies, which, on principle, disapprove of such legislation for women, and of nursing societies, the interests of many of whose members are involved in legislation for midwives.

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