

Privy Council, after consultation with the General Medical Council. It appears to us that the expression of the views of the medical profession being thus provided for, the Midwives' Board should comprise at least a majority of midwives. Failing these we should like to see provision made that one of the two persons appointed by the Lord President of the Privy Council must be a midwife, or the "Midwives' Board" when formed may have no midwife upon it. We are glad to note that express provision is made that the County Councils, and County Borough Councils which are to act as the local supervising authorities in regard to midwives may delegate their duties to any district council within the area of the County, and it is pointed out that women are eligible to serve on these councils.

Further, the objectionable provision of the last Bill which required midwives—in common with hawkers and publicans—to take out Annual Licenses has now been deleted and a provision substituted that women certified under the Act, shall, before practising as midwives in a given area, give notice of their intention to the local supervising authority, and should they act as midwives in any other area they must also give notice to the local authority within forty-eight hours of having so acted. Thus the most objectionable features of the old Bill have been expunged, and those responsible for drafting the present Bill are to be congratulated that they have recognised the injustice of the provisions proposed in the last Bill for the control of midwives, and have now presented a much more just measure. We would also remind our readers that this journal alone has protested against the proposed penal legislation for midwives, and may therefore feel some sense of satisfaction that its protest has not been in vain. An important point in the Bill is that midwives are not permitted to give certificates of still-birth, which has been their practice hitherto. Undoubtedly the still-birth question calls for legislation, but we believe it would best be dealt with by the compulsory registration of all still-births rather than by prohibiting the person who delivers a woman of a still-born child from certifying to the fact. We regret we have not space to print the new Bill *in extenso*, but should advise all midwives to obtain it from the printers, Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C., who will post it to a given address on receipt of two penny stamps.

## Annotations.

### A CORONATION GIFT TO THE QUEEN.

By special permission, and with the sanction and approval of Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, a fund is being raised in commemoration of her Coronation, to establish pensions and beds in connection with the British Home and Hospital for Incurables, at Streatham. The signatures of subscribers will be placed in an album and offered for Her Majesty's gracious acceptance. We hope the Queen may signify her approval of members of her own sex being placed upon the Committee at the same time. It is surely a little obsolete that women should be excluded from direct representation on the managing committee of the charity to be thus signally honoured by the Queen.

### THE QUEEN AND THE NAVY NURSING SERVICE.

The First Lord of the Admiralty in the statement issued by his department explanatory of the Navy Estimates expresses the pleasure of the Board in announcing that Queen Alexandra has identified herself with the Navy by consenting to become President of the Navy Nursing Service and to give it her name. It will be remembered that when we reported last year that Her Majesty had consented to the formation of "Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service" and to act as its President we urged the claims of the Senior Nursing Service to be included in the new Imperial scheme. We are glad, therefore, to learn that our Queen will be head of the Navy as well as of the amalgamated Army and Indian Army Nursing Services. We take this opportunity of reminding our readers that on March 6th, 1900, the Lords of the Admiralty received a Deputation from the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland which presented a memorandum urging reform, and the increase of the Service, and, primarily, the formation of a Nursing Department in affiliation with the Medical Department at the Admiralty, with an Executive Nursing Officer who should be responsible for its efficiency.

### THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD ENQUIRY.

The Departmental Committee of the Local Government Board, appointed to enquire and report with regard to the nursing of the sick poor in workhouses are now taking evidence on this subject. The evidence is roughly

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