

per the Consul-General, £8 1s. 3d.; Gold Coast Colony, per Major Nathan, £33 18s. 9d.; Madrid, per Miss Foley, £18; Foochow, per the Consul, £13; Tientsin, per the Consul, £10 3s. 3d.; Grenada, per Sir R. B. Llewelyn, £50.

It has been definitely announced at last that there are to be hospital ships supplied to our principal fleets. According to Mr. Arnold Forster the policy of attaching a hospital ship to fleets during peace is not to be continued, as there are plenty of sanatoria on shore which are always available, but provision has been made for rapidly equipping hospital ships in time of war. A large number of additional medical stores have been provided and four ships would be immediately available when the necessity occurred. It is thought that hospital ships with a fleet in peace would only be a drag on their movements and thereby hamper them in the important work of fleet evolutions and scouting exercises, especially as it is always possible to detach a small ship to land any cases of severe illness.

In the course of the discussion of the Midwives Bill by the Standing Committee on Law of the House of Commons, Mr. Griffiths-Boscawen urged the appointment of a representative of the Royal British Nurses' Association on the Midwives Board on the ground that "the Association named had done great good in training nurses and teaching them to act as midwives."

We conclude Mr. Boscawen has received information to this effect, but he has been singularly unfortunate in his informant. We speak with an intimate knowledge of the business of the Association, and have no hesitation in saying that the present managers of the Association have consistently opposed its using the powers given to it under the Charter to improve the standard of nursing education in any branch whatever.

It is now a matter of history that had it not been for the action of this journal in exposing Mr. Fardon's "deal" with the Secretary of the Medical Defence Union it would have deprived the nurse members who hold a diploma of midwifery of the name of midwife.

We have always contended that it was the duty of the Royal British Nurses' Association to undertake educational work for nurses, and proposed that an educational sub-committee should be appointed for this purpose, to organize a course of elementary lectures to prepare candidates for the preliminary examinations of the nursing schools. The manner in which the work of this sub-committee was opposed by the inte-

rested lecturers of the National Health Society was one of the most discreditable episodes in the history of the Association. It would, therefore, be of interest if Mr. Boscawen would explain in what way "great good" has been done by the Royal British Nurses' Association "in training nurses and teaching them to act as midwives."

In our view, now that Parliament has decided that midwives shall be independent practitioners, as apart from medical practitioners and trained nurses, nurses' associations have no locus standi in asking for representation on the Central Midwives' Board. The Matrons' Council worked to obtain the deletion from the Midwives' Bill of the Annual Licensing Clause, because it considered it would be derogatory to nurses practising midwifery, but the Council realises that it has no ground for representation on a Board which will regulate the practice of midwifery practitioners. It is to be regretted that the Royal British Nurses' Association has courted discredit by demanding representation which has been refused, by an overwhelming majority, on the Midwives' Board.

The old grievance of disturbing patients at a very early hour in the morning was under discussion at a meeting of the Chorlton Union Board of Guardians. After some consideration the committee recommended that except under special circumstances no patient be awakened for the purpose of being washed before six in the morning. Mr. Serjeant, in moving the adoption of the minutes, said that the nurses were instructed in the winter not to turn up the lights in the wards before the hour named. Many of the patients were very old, and spent all their time in bed. Consequently they woke very early and were only too anxious to have an early wash and their beds re-made. When that was done they went to sleep again.

A nurse candidate recently told the Driffeld Guardians that she had had no hospital training, but added, "I have had private patients, and have had a gentleman and two ladies die under my care." The Guardians decided to advertise again.

A Russian hospital was inaugurated the other day at Piræus. The King, the Queen of the Hellenes, the Royal Family, as well as the Ministers of Russia and England and the officers of the Russian ships stationed at Piræus, were present. The hospital was built at the expense of Queen Olga, and of several members of the Imperial family of Russia, in remembrance of the late Princess Alexandra of Greece, the Grand Duchess Paul. It is a large building, containing for the present only 25

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