

County and Borough Councils—that is to say, of worthy gentlemen engaged in commercial, social, or agricultural pursuits, who can scarcely be qualified, either by sex or experience, to decide on questions of malpraxis or misconduct amongst the midwives in their districts. The proposal, in fact, is simply Gilbertian.

6.—IT EXHIBITS A CONTEMPTUOUS INDIFFERENCE TO THE LIVES AND SAFETY OF POOR WOMEN, AS COMPARED WITH THE CAREFUL PROTECTION AFFORDED TO THE RICH, BY THE MEDICAL ACTS.

The last Medical Act (1886) provided that no medical practitioner should be recognised by law unless he or she were proficient in medicine and surgery as well as in midwifery. Was this demanded only for the protection of women of the richer classes? The Midwives' Bill tacitly asserts that the cardinal protection given by the Medical Acts to the mothers, wives, and daughters of members of Parliament is quite superfluous and needless when the lives and safety of women of the poorer classes are concerned. When this fact is understood, what Members will vote for the third reading of this Bill?

The American Nursing World.

The editorial comments of the able editor, Miss Sophia Palmer, in this month's *American Journal of Nursing*, are most inspiring. She writes under the heading of

OUR WINTER JOURNEYINGS.

It has been our privilege during the past winter to be present at the meetings of a number of clubs and alumnae associations in different cities, and we have also met a great number of nurses socially, and have been entertained by many of them very delightfully. We do not hesitate to say that the Journal is proving to be a strong bond of interest between the nurses of this country, and since its inauguration, with the Congress at Buffalo as an inspiration, greater unity of purpose has developed than during any previous period.

The two vital subjects of general interest are organisation for registration and preliminary training. We noted also with great satisfaction, in the lecture courses being given in Philadelphia, New York, and Boston, a broadening out upon lines of greater cultivation, instead of keeping exclusively to professional subjects.

We were especially interested in the Philadelphia County Nurses' Association, which organisation was the direct outcome of the convention at Buffalo, the alumnae delegates returning to advocate the formation of a local association which should bring the nurses of all schools resident in

the city into closer and more harmonious relations. This society, in organising, fixed its initiation fee at five dollars, thus at the outset providing the means to pay for a course of lectures by a noted man on literary subjects. On the occasion when we were present the subject was "Kipling," and so long as we live this author will have a more interesting personality because of that hour of pleasant entertainment and instruction. The attendance was exceptionally good, fully one-half of the members being present.

The president, Miss Lucy Walker, in speaking of the work to be undertaken by the club in the future, said, very wisely, "We shall first learn to play together, and learn to know each other before undertaking any serious work." We found these nurses anxious to be instructed in the principles of registration, and we shall expect to hear that this society is leading the movement for the organisation of a State Association in Pennsylvania.

Mention has already been made in this Journal of the lectures given under the combined auspices of the alumnae associations of New York City. The three which we were fortunate in being able to attend, two by Mr. Ely and one by the City History Club, all most interesting, were not well attended, there being not more than twenty-five nurses at either one of the three lectures mentioned. We believe that New York, more than any place we know of, needs a strong local organisation that shall bring the nurses of all schools into closer working and "playing" relations. The school lines here are still too sharply drawn, and such lines prevent the progress which one naturally looks for in the greatest nursing centre in the country. The New York State Nurses' Association is bringing the women of the State into more intimate relations; still, when one considers the total number, the membership in that society is small.

The Boston Nurses' Club is working a revolution in the attitude of the graduates of different schools towards one another. During the winter the subject of a club-house has been agitated, and we hope may soon be realised. As the guest of honour at the annual reception of the club, held at the Hotel Thorndike, on the evening of March 13th, we had an opportunity to observe the entire absence of school prejudices in this very notable gathering of nurses.

Massachusetts has been a little slow in taking hold of the subject of registration, but there is a degree of intelligent thought being given to the matter which will bear good fruit when the time for action comes.

To return again to the subject of lectures, we were fortunate in being able to attend one of the regular Friday afternoon lectures to the Senior Class at the City Hospital, to which the graduates

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)