

by reason of their more systematic organisation and more perfect educational methods. How long shall we be content to take a second place? We believe that, given adequate opportunities of development, the British nurse has capacities second to none, and will hold her own amongst the nations. But if her education remains a matter of chance, if schemes for its improvement are continually crippled and stultified for lack of funds, if the brains which can develop for the nation a system of training on the best basis are not utilised, then British supremacy in nursing matters will soon be a thing of the past. We plead, therefore, for the national endowment of nursing education.

Annotations.

THE DUTY OF THE HOUR.

We are glad to note that four of the Bishops—the Bishops of Durham, Worcester, Hereford, and Gibraltar—have addressed letters to the *Times* on the duty and responsibilities of this country in relation to the barbarities perpetrated by Turkish troops in the Balkans.

The correspondent of our contemporary at Monastir writes:—"Though every wily precaution is being taken to suppress the truth, it is impossible to be here and fail to realise that unspeakable horrors have been, are being, and will continue to be committed throughout the greater part of this vilayet, up to the very gates of, if not actually within, the town itself. The local insurrection may be said to have almost expired, but the spirit of murder and loot in the Turkish soldiery is increasing, and will, if unchecked, undoubtedly spread throughout Western Macedonia till there is little left worth plundering and few are left alive to be killed."

Well may the Bishop of Gibraltar say:—"Civilisation can make no progress, true religion can win no triumphs in these suffering lands; until the Christian Powers of Europe renounce their warring ambitions and their mutual distrusts, and show to the world by their actions that God, and not Mammon, is the Master whom they serve."

THE MIDWIVES' ACT.

The working of the Midwives' Act is already presenting practical difficulties, a point which has recently been discussed being the fee of the practitioner who is called in to the assistance

of a midwife. The Birmingham and District General Practitioners' Association have passed the following resolution in relation to the subject:—

"That the members of this ward agree not to attend midwives' cases at a less fee than one guinea; that the midwife concerned in the case be held responsible for obtaining the fee; that in any case where the fee has not been obtained the name of the midwife shall be reported to the ward."

While sympathising with medical practitioners in the diversion of a part of their practice into hands which they regard as unskilled, we do not see how they are to enforce payment of their fees by the midwife when called in to her assistance without obtaining legislation to this effect. At the same time, if the practitioner is summoned by the midwife it is a distinctly debatable point whether or no she is liable, and a test case would be of interest.

The significance of the resolution lies in the fact that the medical practitioners concerned have met and decided on a common course of action. Will midwives form professional associations in which they can discuss and decide on a common policy, or will they still remain isolated? In the latter case they will inevitably go to the wall.

THE HUMANITARIAN LEAGUE.

The Annual Report of the Humanitarian League shows a steady increase in the League's activities, especially in the Criminal Law and Prisons Reform Department and in the agitation against spurious sports. Satisfaction is expressed at the progress of several reforms which have long been advocated by humanitarians, as, for instance, the discontinuance of the tread-wheel in English prisons, and the recognition by the Zoological Society of the cruelty of confining wild animals in small dens and cages. Effort has been made to awaken public opinion to the need of humane education for the young, the Eton College Beagles being condemned as an example of the contrary system. Public meetings have been held, lectures organised, resolutions passed, questions asked in Parliament, a large number of letters addressed to London and provincial newspapers, and many thousands of pamphlets and leaflets put into circulation. Copies of the Report can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, at 53, Chancery Lane, London.

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