

Dr. van Moll proposes that in every section of the Bond a Provident Committee may be constituted, consisting of three members—a medical man, a male or female nurse, and a lay person. The local Committees shall promote the interests of the Provident Fund in every direction; they collect the contributions of the members of their own sections. The money is to be paid in to the General Fund that has the administration of the whole.

In a following letter I shall tell you something about the report of the Commission for the Training and Examination of Nurses.

The Midwives' Act.

MEDICAL FEES IN MIDWIVES' CASES.

We are indebted to the *British Medical Journal* for the information that at the annual meeting of the Birmingham and District General Practitioners' Union the following resolution was adopted:—

"That, in view of the new condition of things created by the Midwives' Act of 1902, it is desirable, in the opinion of this meeting, that the Council formulate rules for our common guidance in respect to attendance on midwives' cases, such rules, after approval by the Union, to be incorporated in the Code of Ethics."

Our contemporary continues:—"We are informed that at a meeting of the Council of the Birmingham and District General Medical Practitioners' Union, held on March 30th, the following report of the Ethical Committee of the Council was read and approved:—

"The question of medical attendance in midwives' cases having been thoroughly discussed, the Committee considers that it is impossible to formulate a code of rules for the guidance of members.

"They wish to point out:

"1. That the relation of medical men to the public is not altered by the Midwives' Act, either financially or professionally.

"2. That a larger fee should be charged in midwives' cases.

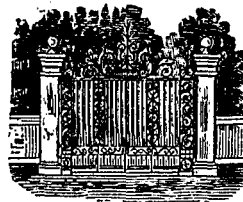
"3. That when summoned to a case by a midwife, a medical practitioner's relation to the patient is the same as if summoned by the patient."

"We understand that in June last the East Birmingham Branch of the Birmingham and District General Medical Practitioners' Union adopted a resolution to the effect that the members of that ward agreed not to attend midwives' cases at a fee of less than one guinea and that the midwife concerned in the case would be held responsible for obtaining the fee. As will be observed, this suggested action, which we understand has aroused much apprehension among midwives, has not been endorsed by the Central Council of the Union, which has taken the view that the relation of medical men to the public has not been altered by the Midwives' Act, and that the relation of a medical practitioner to the patient is the same when summoned by a midwife as when summoned by the patient direct."

SICKNESS IN THE JAPANESE ARMY.—According to the *Times*, reports have reached Tien-Tsin that there is a good deal of sickness among the Japanese army in Korea, and it is asserted that a considerable percentage of the troops is suffering from a disease resembling beri-beri.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



Miss A. N. Johnston, M.A., youngest daughter of Councillor James Johnston, of Manchester, has been appointed by the Council of Bangor College—one of the three colleges constituting the University of Wales—to occupy the chair of education during the absence of

Professor Green in the next collegiate year. This, it is believed, is the first occasion on which a woman has been appointed to a professorship in a British University College.

The jeweller's art is being revived in England by female jewellers. A great number have gone in for enamelling, but it has been left to Mrs. Dick, of 77, Ladbroke Road, to initiate the more responsible task of resetting valuable diamonds. There are little tricks even in this artistic trade. All valuable stones are set clear. It is only those which are not good that need the aid of foil at the back. And a trade secret is the painting of a stone to improve its colour. For instance, the most valuable opals are those with a good deal of red, so the backs of such stones are touched up with red paint as well as putting the red foil behind them. Jewel-setting is a great strain on the eyes, and a lens has often to be used to do fine work.

An interesting collection of old embroideries, samplers, &c., as well as a number of specimens of old paste, is being shown by Messrs. Debenham and Freebody at Wigmore Street. The former are of rather unusual merit, as they include a number of quite authentic specimens of British work which are referable in date to the seventeenth century, a time which saw so many good examples of this kind produced not as a commercial venture, but as a result of the domestic occupation of the average gentlewoman of culture. The collection of samplers includes some interesting specimens, especially of drawn-thread work. One is said to have belonged to Queen Elizabeth; another (326) is dated 1668. Some of the other samplers are curious. One, of Queen Anne's time, contains the quatrain: "Look well to what you take in hand, For learning is better than houses or land, When land is gone and money spent, Then learning is most excellent." The paste and jewellery are worth inspection, and there is some good old bead-work.

The Women's Institute has got out an attractive programme for May and June. Amongst the questions to be discussed we note "The Esoteric Woman, or the Feminine Principle in Nature," by Mr. T. Howard, as one of great interest. On May 18th, Mr. Howard, the founder of the Garden City Movement, will speak on "Opportunities for Women Workers in Garden Cities."

The District of Columbia, as we reported, recently, has formed an Association of Graduate Nurses, with Miss G. M. Nevins, Superintendent of Nurses at the Garfield Memorial Hospital, Washington, as President. She writes that: "There is an enthusiastic interest among the nurses concerning registration, and the Bill will go to Congress in a few days."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)