

to the Board, and he thought the Board would feel freer to discuss some of these matters if the Press were not present.

Mr. Parker Young thought the presence of the Press was a protection to the public. The Board was carrying out an Act of Parliament.

Eventually, consideration of the question was postponed until the procedure of the General Medical Council had been ascertained.

In relation to a charge against a registered midwife which would come before the Board that day week, Dr. Champneys said he felt strongly that the Press should be present.

Miss Paget then moved a resolution, which was seconded by Dr. Cullingworth, embodying certain principles to be adopted in approving midwives for signing Forms III. and IV. This was carried, with some minor alterations.

The date of the next ordinary meeting was fixed for December 22nd.

The meeting then terminated.

The Morality of Midwives.

Speaking at the second annual meeting of the Sussex County Nursing Association held at 24, Park Lane, by the kind permission of Lord Brassey, Miss Amy Hughes observed in the course of a discussion on the Midwives' Act, that it has been said by an eminent hospital authority that the question of moral character did not enter into a midwife's work. For her part she considered it most necessary that midwives should be women whose character and influence made for good. The remark was received with cordial applause.

Welcome Gifts.

Sir George Bullough sent a very welcome gift of six pheasants to the Nurses' Home of Rest at Brighton last week, and Mr. Tooley sent a brace of pheasants, a hare, and apples. We feel sure those nurses who are now staying at 12, Sussex Square will join us in thanking these gentlemen for their welcome gifts.

Princess Louise in Glasgow.

Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll on Tuesday attended a meeting in the Grand Hotel, Glasgow, in support of the movement for the extension of the Glasgow Maternity Hospital. Her Royal Highness was accompanied by the Duke of Argyll. The Lord Provost of Glasgow, Sir John Ure Primrose, presided. The Duke of Argyll, in moving a resolution supporting the hospital directors' appeal for funds, said he desired to state how very emphatically Princess Louise wished to commend the interests of the hospital to the support of the citizens of Glasgow.

Nursing Echoes.

All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



Mr. Troutbeck, Coroner for the South-Western District, expressed his astonishment at a recent inquest that in a vast area like London there should be no recognised organised means for conveying sick and injured persons to hospitals. The inquest was held on a girl, living in Southfields, who was attacked at midnight by acute peritonitis, and whose removal to St. Thomas's Hospital was advised by the local doctor. At two o'clock a.m. she was removed in the only vehicle which could be procured, a laundry van, and after jolting over five or six miles of irregular roads it is scarcely surprising that on arrival at the hospital she should be found to be dead.

The jury returned a verdict of "Death from natural causes," and added a rider expressing the opinion that "there ought to be an immediate alteration in the imperfect arrangements for conveying patients to the hospitals by the provision of sufficient horse ambulances in each district." Surely it is time. The organisation of the ambulance service in New York, which is well ahead of us in this matter, might be studied with advantage by our metropolitan authorities.

Another case, which has since come under the notice of the same Coroner, is that of a boy, who met with an accident at Brixton. He was taken to St. Thomas's Hospital in a four-wheeled cab, and operated on for severe internal injuries, but died at midnight. In reply to the Coroner, a police constable stated the nearest hand-ambulance was at the police station—a quarter of an hour's walk from the accident. It was an hour's walk to St. Thomas's from Brixton.

Mr. McKay, Coroner's officer, said there was no horse-ambulance in the whole of Brixton. There were only three in the whole Metropolitan District.

Mr. Troutbeck said the case illustrated one of the greatest blots upon the administration in London at the present time. He had had to call attention to the matter only recently. He supposed the cause of neglect was that the Legislature were just now engaged on too-important questions to give any attention to such a simple question as the saving of life.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)