

The Old Order Changeth Yielding Place to New.

The *Queen's Nurses' Magazine* is one which is always welcome, its tone is thoroughly professional, and it is always full of interesting articles and news. The last issue contains an article entitled "Exit Sairey Gamp" showing how since the passing of the Midwives' Act many hopelessly ignorant women have had to retire from the field beaten by the mysteries of a clinical thermometer, of disinfectants, and of the forms the Board requires them to fill up.

It concludes:—"Gamps will soon be a memory of the past, and the mothers of England may thank heaven for it, but it is only fair to remember that amongst them were many who according to their lights worked faithfully and well, and whose wise and motherly ways earned for them the gratitude and devotion of the people around them. Amongst these should be recorded the name of Mrs. Middlecote (whose portrait, with that of her successor, which appeared in the *Magazine* we are kindly allowed to publish). Mrs. Middlecote was born at Upton St. Leonards, on March 9th, 1819. She

started as a midwife in the same parish in 1855. She was married in 1838, and had eleven children. Her husband was a coachman to the Rev. J. Emeris, vicar of the parish. He was ill for ten years before his death, and Mrs. Middlecote worked in the fields between her cases. She continued her work till 1903, giving it up when the Midwives' Act came into force. She then brought her

book of rules to the district Queen's Nurse, with a request that she (the Queen's Nurse) should nurse her when ill and lay her out. She never had a septic case in all her practice, and never lost a patient, although having on an average thirty cases a year. Mrs. Middlecote never went to school, but has given her signature in her own writing. A Superintendent describes her as a sweet old thing and tells how she visited her one day and said to her, "Well, Granny, how did you get about all over the village; did you ride a bicycle?"

"Lor' no, mem," she said, "I did it all on me two feet." The Superintendent then said, "Did you carry a bag?" "No, mem," she said, "nothing but me aporn and me umbrella."

In our illustration it will be seen that Mrs. Middlecote wears her apron and carries her umbrella.



BEFORE THE MIDWIVES' ACT AND AFTER.

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