

the Union as they are required spring leaders, who have already in fifteen States led the nurses to victory. During the past year, American nurses have had their own special problems to face, but they are facing them with courage and composure. The fact is that American nurses are now an irresistible force, so firmly and loyally are they united through the Superintendents' Society, and the Nurses' National Associated Alumnae, and their solidarity and devotion to professional ideals is a lesson to the whole Nursing World.

#### THE PROFESSIONAL NURSING PRESS.

Personal contact can do much, but the professional press can do more to urge forward the unity and solidarity of our noble profession. A great impetus was given at Paris to the co-operation of the nursing press by the social functions at which the editorial staffs attending the Conference met and cemented friendship. The singleness of purpose of the journals which are owned by societies of nurses, and which are controlled and edited by experts, have proved in so many countries that without their fearless and far-spreading influence personal liberty, most precious of life's gifts, would be impossible for the thousands of the women workers who compose the profession of nursing. This fact has been driven home during the past year, to the nurses of the world, by the action of a lay editor of a commercial nursing paper, who pamphleteered the nursing world at home and abroad in a futile attempt to discredit and prevent the International Conference of Nursing at Paris. The well deserved ignominy resulting from such conduct will, let us hope, be a lesson to the exploiter of nurses by means of commercial nursing journals in the future. The solidarity of the professional nursing press is now too firmly established for such discreditable attacks to succeed. It is our most valuable asset. Let the profession at large give it whole hearted and loyal support.

#### MIDWIFERY.

##### THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

The Central Midwives' Board continues to get through an enormous amount of work, and nothing could prove more conclusively the need for a central body controlling and systematising the education of any large body of professional workers, and for maintaining discipline in their ranks than the work which is done by this Board. The new rules of the Board have been sanctioned by the Privy Council, and are now in force.

Individual members of the Board have given a large amount of time to discharging the duties they have undertaken in the

public service. The need of the representation of midwives on their governing body is demonstrated by the valuable work on the Board of Miss Rosalind Paget, who has a seat as the representative of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, and who is the only certified midwife upon it. While all the members unquestionably desire to accord justice to midwives, those who watch the proceedings of the Board must be impressed by the way in which Miss Paget alone appears to regard questions which come up from the standpoint of the midwife, and over and over again brings up points which seem to have occurred to no other member of the Board. We hope that her work may eventually prove not only the justice, but the desirability of the direct representation of midwives on their governing body.

##### THE MIDWIVES DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.

An interesting and important step has been taken during the year on the initiative of the midwives of the Royal Maternity Charity, in the formation of a Midwives' Defence Association, which is still in its initial stages. Its eventual success must depend upon the lines on which it is organised by the Council. It must be catholic enough to include all midwives, and stand outside all other societies, having its own independent organisation, if it is to attain its object of attracting to its ranks certified midwives of diverse views and interests.

##### THE MIDWIFE.

On February 7th a new departure was made by the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which devoted space at the end of the paper to all midwifery news in a supplement, entitled THE MIDWIFE. This arrangement has been much appreciated by readers of the Journal, and it is evident that THE MIDWIFE has come to stay.

#### King Edward the Seventh's Coronation National Fund for Nurses.

A special meeting of the Council of above Society was recently held at 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin, to consider an application for assistance. Mr. Marcus Tertius Moses, who was in the chair, informed the Council that he, as Hon. Treasurer, had received the sum of £300 from the Trustees of the Pembroke Irish Charities Fund, which sum he had invested (under Rule 39), so as to bring in £10 per annum.

For information regarding the Fund, application should be made to the Secretary, 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin.

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