

sonal practical experience. A further letter from the Secretary pointed out that this was no answer to his previous letter, and stated that what the Board wished to know was whether Miss Myerscough's statements were true, or whether she had in fact personally delivered 20 cases.

To this a reply was received from the Registrar of which the following are the material extracts:—

"The Master desires me to say that in signing the certificate he was aware that Nurse Myerscough had conducted 15 cases, but being present, and having had practical personal experience of such a large number extra, he considered he was entitled to sign the certificate, and that in doing so he complied fully with the spirit of the rule. . . . In conclusion, the Master desires me to say that, if 15 conductions, as well as a large number of attendances, of which the nurses have personal, practical experience, are not considered sufficient by your Board, the Hospital will at once make arrangements to see that each nurse in future conducts at least 20 cases."

Dr. Stevens accordingly admits that he signed a certificate stating that Miss Myerscough had under his supervision attended and watched the progress of not fewer than 20 labours, and had personally delivered the patient, knowing perfectly well that she had conducted 15 cases only.

The signing of a false certificate, knowing it to be false, appears to fall within the class of offences included in Section 12 of the Midwives Act, 1902. This Section is as follows:—

"Any person wilfully making, or causing to be made, any falsification in any matter relating to the Roll of Midwives, shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and shall be liable to be imprisoned with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding twelve months."

This Section is printed in extenso, and in conspicuous type at the bottom of that page of the schedule which contains the three signatures of Dr. Stevens and the signature of Miss Myerscough to the declaration.

Dr. Stevens's conduct in signing this false certificate is such that no words of comment are necessary. Such a flagrant breach of the law, however, requires drastic action by the Board, and I move accordingly:—

(a) That the name of the Coombe Lying-in Hospital, Dublin, be removed from the list of recognised training schools.

(b) That Dr. Stevens be informed that no certificates signed by him will be accepted by the Board in future.

(c) That Elizabeth Christiana Myerscough be informed that she will not be admitted as a candidate at any future examination of the Board unless she produces a fresh schedule showing that she has undergone a complete course of training elsewhere than at the Coombe Hospital.

(4) That the facts and documents relating to the case be reported to the General Medical Council and to the Privy Council.

APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL.

The application of the Birmingham Maternity

Hospital for approval as a training school was granted.

The application of the following midwives for approval for signing Forms III. and IV. were approved. Jessie Judge, No. 24574, and Prudence Jenkins, No. 25091, the latter subject to approval by L.S.A.

APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINERS.

Dr. F. Edge, Dr. E. Malins, Dr. C. Martin, and Dr. T. Wilson were appointed as examiners for the Birmingham centre, and it was decided to invite Dr. Jordan Lloyd to act in this capacity. The date of the next meeting was fixed for January 16th, 1908, and for the hearing of penal cases January 30th.

POUND DAY AT THE GENERAL LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

It is proposed to hold the annual Pound Day at the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, Lambert, on New Year's Day. All friends and ex-nurses interested in the Hospital, which is urgently in need of help, are cordially invited to attend, or to forward their gifts. Sovereigns, or dry goods such as tea, coffee, sugar, rice, oatmeal, etc., will be most welcome. The Hospital will be open to inspection from 3 to 5 p.m., when the Matron will be glad to see all visitors.

COTTAGE NURSES AND THE MIDWIVES' ACT.

At the recent General Council Meeting of the Cottage Benefit Nursing Association, the Hon. Secretary, Miss B. M. Broadwood, stated that there were at present about 11,000 practising midwives in England and Wales, the large majority of whom were bonâ-fides. There were also many women now acting as midwives who would be debarred from so doing after March, 1910. Of 1,533 who gained the certificate of the Central Midwives' Board in twelve months, only 815, or about 53 per cent., intended to practise as midwives. This revealed a serious condition of things.

Miss Cochrane, of Bourn, Cambridgeshire, said that in that county there was an absolute dearth of persons who would consent to be trained. If something were not done many women would be compelled to call in the parish doctor.

Miss Broadwood was of opinion that an amending Act would have to be passed. She also said Lord Lindley had informed her that possibly the period of grace might be lengthened.

LAST WORDS FOR 1907.

Why should last words be associated with regrets and melancholy? Has the past year been of good account—have we worked strenuously, been of good courage, done faithful service? Have we been loyal to friends and pitiful to the poor? If we can answer these questions in the affirmative happy are we. The year has been fruitful of many things, especially of good fellowship. The nurses of the world have become good comrades. There is no nationality in nursing, its devotees are free lances in the Valley of the Shadow—a shadow which enshrouds the whole world.