

once understand and avail themselves of its protective power. Consequently, we may claim to have proved up to the hilt, that the Registration of Midwives is not more urgently necessary than that of Nurses. We do not desire to make any unnecessarily invidious distinction, and therefore say no more upon the subject.

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### THE BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BRADFORD.

ON September 27, Miss C. J. Wood, one of the Hon. Secretaries of the Association, met the Nurses of the Infirmary, of the Nurses' Institution, and of the Children's Hospital, to lay before them the work it proposes to do. Miss Wood briefly sketched the present condition of the Nursing profession, showed how it was deficient in organisation, in uniformity of training, and in the means for self-government or advancement among the workers. At the present time there were many untrained or half-trained women practising among the public, to the manifest danger to the health of their patients, and injustice to those women who gave up a certain number of years to learn their work thoroughly. The Association was formed in London at the end of last year, and is composed of Medical men and Nurses, and its first object is to obtain a Royal Charter under which fully-trained Nurses shall be Registered, after giving satisfactory proof of their training and competency in the work of sick-nursing, and the object of the meeting was to place the scheme before the Nurses of Bradford, and to obtain their co-operation. Miss Wood drew attention to the fact that if the Association became a firmly-welded body of Nurses, many benevolent and economic plans for their benefit might be worked out, which, in the isolated position of the members, were at present impossible, and invited them to show their sympathy with the movement by joining the Association. Miss Wood spoke of the active interest which the Princess Christian took in the work of the Association, attending its committees and holding frequent conferences with the authors of the scheme. Over one thousand members had already joined the Association.

A discussion followed, in which many questions were asked that further elucidated the details of the scheme.

A vote of thanks to Miss Wood was moved by Mr. Horrocks (Senior Resident Medical Officer), and seconded by Mr. Vaughan (House Physician of the Bradford Infirmary), and was carried by acclamation.

Among those present were Miss Stevenson, of the Children's Hospital; the Superintendent of the Bradford Nursing Institute; Miss Dickinson, Lady Superintendent of the Infirmary; and Messrs. Horrocks, Vaughan, and Denby, of the Medical Staff. Dr. Goyder and others were unavoidably prevented from attending.

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### THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ART OF NURSING.

BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.

THE art of Nursing forms one branch of the practical application of the science of medicine. This is a fact which is not as yet universally acknowledged or understood; therefore, before touching upon the more interesting subject of the various details of which the art of Nursing is composed, it would be well to inquire why and whence this art originated? The answer is very simple. It has been stated that skilled Nursing is the servant of medicine, surgery, and hygiene. It is this, and more. I claim for it a still closer bond.

Rather, is not the art of Nursing the legitimate offspring of these great sciences, a sweet faced daughter who has grown up in these latter days, and who has proved to us, by her evolution, and the distinctness of her personality, that in one direction, the development of medicine and surgery, would be impracticable and defective without her supplementary aid? Let us at least grant her justice—in all, she only claims recognition and the freedom to interpret obediently and intelligently the great, yet simple laws of her forefathers.

For instance, the prolongation of a life, wasted by fever, and hovering for days on the verge of dissolution, and the almost certain satisfactory results of the most exquisite and intricate surgical operation, is to an unacknowledged extent the reward of intelligent Nursing. When the smallest deviation by an ignorant woman from the scientific treatment prescribed might, and has, cost the patient his life.

When we call Nursing an art, we at once emphasise the difference between the artist and the amateur—a difference which exists as distinctly in Nursing as it does in either music or painting.

There is no royal road to knowledge. We all agree that it requires years of patient and laborious study to create a great painter or a finished musician. That with however much talent a man may be endowed in the commencement of his career, it is only by the most assiduous attention

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