

*The Lancet*, contains a leading article last week, which we strongly advise our readers to peruse as soon as possible. It says, "Possibly it would simplify matters very considerably if the Royal Charter which legalises this registration created a General Nursing Council, or some such body, to carry it into effect; it is certainly all-important that the body entrusted with the registration of nurses for the United Kingdom should be powerful, independent, and impartial beyond criticism." We must express our complete concurrence with this far-sighted view of the matter. It is, of course, quite beyond dispute that the registration must be authorised by Act of Parliament or Royal Charter.

It is proposed by the Hospitals Association, as we noticed last week, that each hospital shall register its own nurses. The absurdity of this idea, and its uselessness to nurses and to everyone, must be apparent to all who realise that registration to be a guarantee of efficiency to the medical profession and the public must be sanctioned by the State and maintained by the law of the land.

Finally comes the question, "What will Legal Registration do for Nurses?" Much in every way. First, it will form nursing into a distinct profession—an inseparable part of the noble profession of medicine—by giving the nurses' calling a legal status, which it, of course, does not hold now, and never has possessed. Then it will clearly define who are and who are not the real members of the profession; who, in fact, is a really trained nurse, and who is only an amateur or a mere pretender to the title. Then, of course, it will improve the individual position of every registered nurse in the opinion of the public; and increase very considerably, not only her chances of regular and definite employment, but also the pecuniary rewards which her work then must command when it is legally and universally recognised, as it will then be, as a skilled and scientific calling.

#### OUR CONTEMPORARIES' OPINIONS.

THE first number has appeared of *The Nursing Record*, a journal for nurses, and a chronicle of hospital and institution news, &c. There seems to be much in the new venture that is both interesting and useful. The proprietors are Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston, and Co., Limited.—*Globe*.

MESSRS. SAMPSON LOW AND Co., LIMITED, have issued this week the first number of a new weekly journal, which appeals to a rapidly increasing class. If the *Nursing Record* "lives up" to the programme set forth in its opening address to its readers, it is certain to win wide and hearty support. The tone of the opening number is sensible, and the interest of the paper ought to increase with each number—especially as it makes a direct appeal for

literary hints and suggestions to nurses who are actively engaged in their self-denying work. The need of such a medium of communication is obvious, and we heartily wish the new venture success, both in the interests of the nursing profession and the public.—*Leeds Mercury*.

THE publication of a weekly journal under the name of *The Nursing Record* has just commenced. The first issue contains a review of the various steps which have been taken, and reports of the various meetings which have been held, in support of the British Nurses' Association, in addition to several papers by members of the nursing profession.—*Lancet*.

#### "MIDWIVES' MIDWIFERY."

A PARTICULARLY instructive moral should be drawn from a letter under this heading addressed to the editor of the *Lancet* of last Saturday by Dr. J. McCallum McCarthy, of St. George's Hospital, who very pertinently and properly asks, after describing his experience of a distressingly painful case which recently came under his notice—"In the face of such calamities as this, is it not high time that only those who *have some slight training* in the emergencies of midwifery should be allowed to practise as midwives?" It is our bounden duty here to point out to the medical profession, in order to secure protection for its patients, and to nurses, to enable them to protect themselves, that the sooner they unite cordially and determinedly to obtain a proper recognised legislative footing the better for all concerned. *Slight training*, forsooth! A thorough, but reasonable, practical experience, extending over a period of three years at least, should and will have to be insisted upon.

#### ROYAL BERKS INFIRMARY.

WE have received the forty-ninth annual report of the board of management of this hospital for the year ending December 31st, 1887. We note therein that during the past year 1,265 in-patients have received treatment, being 18 in excess of the number in 1886, and 34 more than in any previous year. The new cases were 1,145, as compared with 1,049 in 1886. The number of out-patients, 1,801, remains about the same as in previous years.

Repairs have involved an expenditure of £275. Donations to the hospital amount to £417 15s. 5d., including £200 from Mr. George Palmer. Hospital Saturday realised £172 7s. 1d., and the increase in the Hospital Sunday collections was £24. Sub-

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