

the Nurses' home, the Committee report that the estimate for purchase, alteration, furnishing, &c., was £3,100. An appeal was made for the amount, and no less than £3,157 1s. was raised, including £1,000 from Messrs. BASS and Co., £500 from the FEOFFES, £500 from Mr. and Mrs. BRIDGMAN, Mr. W. H. WORTHINGTON £200, Messrs. WORTHINGTON and Co. £200, Messrs. SALT and Co. £200, Mrs. WARDLE £100, the late Mr. NEWTON £100, and Messrs. TRUMAN and Co. £100.

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THE property was purchased, the alterations were made, and the Committee reiterate their warmest thanks to all subscribers. The property has been vested in the names of three trustees, Mr. C. J. CLAY, Mr. W. H. WORTHINGTON, and Mr. J. C. GRINLING. Turning to the balance-sheets we find that the expenditure came to £776 13s. 9½d., leaving a balance of £32 5s. 2½d. in hand. The convalescent fund shows that £2 7s. 7d. was collected, and there was a balance in hand of 4s. 1d. Of this £1 18s. was spent in railway fares for patients, and a balance was left of 13s. 8d. With regard to the private Nursing account, it is only needful to say that there are ten Nurses, and that the amount due to the treasurer is £70 1s. 0½d. The deficiency is accounted for by the sickness of Nurses, the less infectious Nursing, and the irregularity of demand, this latter being exemplified by the mention of the fact that while at times Nurses are unemployed in the home, at other times as many as forty-two applications have had to be refused.

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A CORRESPONDENT who sends me the following cutting from the *Hereford Times*, asks whether it is wise for the district Nurse to attend maternity cases. To this, as the question has been asked by others previously, I may reply, that it is usual and very advisable for this to be done, always provided, of course, that the Nurse is not in attendance upon any contagious cases, amongst which I include not only the ordinary fevers, but erysipelas, influenza, and the dressing of suppurating wounds. It is well recognized now that the greatest danger of labour is the predisposition of the patient to blood poisoning, and that it therefore behoves all obstetric Nurses, not only to be rigidly scrupulous in the use of antiseptics, and in absolute cleanliness, but also in the avoidance of any possibility of conveying contagion to the lying-in chamber. I am glad to see that Herefordshire is so well in accord with nursing progress elsewhere, for the paragraph in question is as follows:—

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"Through the kindness of Lady RODNEY, the Nurse engaged for Eye and its district will be allowed to attend maternity cases in the borough when free from other work. The Leominster parish Nurse is rendering excellent service, but the ordinary cases are quite sufficient to fully occupy her time, and such help in special cases, cannot but be a boon to the poor, by whom, without doubt, it will be greatly appreciated."

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By the bye, the paragraph reminds me of a fact which my correspondents from different parts of the country are constantly bringing to my notice, that Nurses are now in a very large number of places attending to maternity cases. The Midwife seems to be dying a natural death, and trained Nurses who have had an obstetric training, seem everywhere to be taking her place. As my readers know, a great effort was recently made by some well meaning, but somewhat ignorant, ladies and gentlemen to galvanise the midwife into new existence. But it was against the spirit of the age. The medical profession would not sanction the creation of a new order of medical practitioners, and as I reported lately the most important Branch of the British Medical Association recently buried the proposal for good and all.

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It is amusing, however, to notice that the organ of the Midwives' Institute has not ventured to tell its members the precise resolutions which were carried by this meeting, but has, in a brief notice minimised and misrepresented what actually occurred. If the members of the Institute like to be kept in the dark as to the feeling in the medical profession concerning their proceedings, they are entirely at liberty to repeat the tactics of the ostrich, but I fear they will find the result to be equally delusive. While on this I should like to ask a question which many correspondents have asked me. Why does not the Midwives' Institute publish in its organ audited accounts of its receipts and expenditure, and a list of its members? Can it be—as the scornful aver is the case—because both are so amusingly attenuated, that the managers are fearful of ridicule if they did so. In fact, has the Midwives' Institute any members and any income to speak of, at all? I should be glad to receive and to publish some information on these points, and I trust that Mrs. SMITH, who, I am told, is the President, and Miss ROSALIND PAGET, who, I am told, is the Treasurer, will be kind enough to supply Nurses with these facts concerning a public body, duly registered under the Companies' Acts.

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THE *Worcester Chronicle* has been interviewing a Nurse so as to give its readers some idea of what Hospital life is. She gave a very fair and sensible

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