

women, since the days of the world renowned "ministering angel" Florence Nightingale, have made both home and hospital nursing a matter of study and practice. Your Nursing Association, Hospital Guilds, etc., have been the means of stimulating similar activity all over the world, and there seems to be no field into which the gentleness and sympathy of woman can be better called into play than in caring for the weak and unfortunate.

I send with this letter a little volume containing illustrations of many objects in the Women's Building, which I trust will be of interest to you, and recall pleasant memories of your association with us.

With sincere thanks for your hearty support, co-operation and interesting exhibit, and with warmest congratulations upon the success of your undertaking, believe me to be, with renewed expressions of high consideration,—Yours very sincerely,

BERTHA HONORÉ PALMER,  
*President Board of Lady Managers.*"

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THE Hon. Superintendent of the Registered Nurses' Society regrets that she is able to see so little of the members; but, as this is owing to their constant employment, it is, perhaps, more a subject for congratulation than regret. She suggests, however, that, to keep in touch with the Nurses, one column a week shall be reserved weekly in this journal for their special use, through which to communicate with them, and in which they can also express their views if so inclined. She will be glad to hear the opinion of the members upon this suggestion.

## The Registration of Midwives.

AS the subject of the Registration of Midwives has now arrived at an acute stage, and is one of great interest to many of our readers, we republish the report of the discussion, from the *Lancet*, which took place at the General Medical Council last week.

### CERTIFICATION OF MIDWIVES.

A number of communications in regard to Midwives were received and entered on the minutes. The first was from the Home Office forwarding the copy of a rider adopted by the Bridgwater coroner's jury censuring a midwife for not calling in medical assistance upon difficulties arising on the deceased giving birth to a child, and expressing the opinion "that the Legislature should interfere to prevent women acting as midwives unless trained and certificated for such purpose." There was also sent from the Home Office the following anonymous letter:—

"SIR,—I take the liberty of writing to you on the duty of Midwives as there is so many put them selves up as such and dont know no more about such work then a child they run the risk there have been so many instances of it recently. I my self had to pay 16 guinies to be instructed in the art of Midwifery had to pass the drs and give three month before I could with a Certificate, and its not a right thing for these sort of women to be allowed to go on. there have been several cases in the paper that women have lost there lives through haveing them handy women, and another thing there would not be so many infants left about in different places.

this woman which attended on this case she call her self a midwife but she is not a midwife Sir we shall be very thankful to you as soon as the Midwives Bill Pass to stop those women from goin to do such duty unless they have got a certificate for such work hoping Sir you excuse the liberty Ive taken your Obedient Servant.

E. H. Certified Midwife."

The other communications were from the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch of the British Medical Association, against such legislation as is proposed by the Midwives' Registration Association; from Dr. R. R. Rentoul, forwarding a petition "against the proposed formation of an inferior order of midwifery practitioners, or the so-called 'registration of midwives'"; from the Preston Medico-Ethical Society, forwarding an identical petition; and from the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association.

Dr. Rentoul had sent to the Council twelve specimens of these diplomas from various bodies. The one from the Coombe Lying-in Hospital certified that A. B.— "had duly attended the practice of this Hospital for six months," after which she had received the "certificate testifying to her competence to act as midwife and ladies' Nurse-tender." The master and assistants of the Hospital for the relief of Poor Lying-in Women in Dublin state "her proficiency by an examination." The diploma issued by the College of Physicians, Edinburgh, state that A. B. was duly examined in midwifery and found competent to practice it. The Belfast Lying-in Hospital had its document emblazoned with a large red seal, and began, "Know all men by these presents" that the candidate after examination had been found qualified to practise midwifery. The diploma granted by the Zenana Medical College indicated that the holder had received instruction in "medicine, disorders of tropical climates, minor and practical surgery, including diseases of the eye, midwifery, and diseases of women, and we find that she possesses a knowledge of them that will qualify her to render professional aid in ordinary cases of disease." Other diplomas on similar patterns were present from the British Lying-in Hospital; the City of London Lying-in Hospital, the Birmingham Lying-in Hospital, the Obstetrical Society of London, an Institution for Instruction in Massage, the Manchester and Salford Lying-in Hospital, the Manchester Maternity Hospital, and the Missionary Nurses Training Home, Glasgow.

Mr. WHEELHOUSE moved:—(a) "That after January 1st, 1895, the Council will consider any registered medical practitioner who shall sanction the issue to any midwife or other person who has not passed a qualifying examination in medicine, surgery, and midwifery, as provided by the Medical Act (1886), of a certificate or diploma which shall imply a qualification to practice midwifery as "guilty of infamous conduct in a professional respect." (b) That a copy of this motion be sent to such Institutions or persons as have been in the habit of issuing the aforesaid certificates or diplomas so far as these Institutions or persons are known to the Council."

Sir DYCE DUCKWORTH seconded the motion.

Sir WILLIAM TURNER moved as an amendment:— "That, in the opinion of the Council, the issue to women of any certificate of competency, or other document, so framed as to bear a colourable resemblance, either in appearance or phraseology, to a diploma conveying a right to be registered as a medical

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