

setters, unqualified assistants, and prescribing chemists may be granted a diploma. When this comes about there will be a complete repeal of the Medical Act, 1886. Lately, "The Magnetic and Botanic School of Safe Medicine, Limited," and "The General Council of Safe Medicine, Limited," have been established. They have been registered as Limited Liability Companies under the Board of Trade, not having a capital divided into Shares. Registration was effected on March 15th, 1893.

The following is the Memorandum of this new diploma granting body:—

"Memorandum of Association of the General Council of Safe Medicine, Limited."

1. "The name of the Company is—The General Council of Safe Medicine, Limited.

2. "The Registered Office of the Company will be situated in England.

3. "The objects for which the Company is established are to grant Degrees, Scholarships, and Awards of Merit in the Magnetic and Botanic System of Safe Medicine, to students passing a satisfactory examination for the General Council of Safe Medicine, and to those of the Botanic Profession of good moral character, and who can produce a reliable evidence of qualification, or two years' practice, at the discretion of the Council. The highest Diploma of the Council, conferring the distinction of M.D. (B.C.), which shall signify the rank of 'Doctor of Botanic Medicine,' in contradistinction to Surgery and the practices of the Allopathic and Homœopathic Schools of Medicine: also to maintain a lecture hall, library, and record office, in which a biographical record of its members shall be kept as far as obtainable.

4. "Every member of the Company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Company, in the event of the same being wound up during the time that he is a member, or within one year afterwards, for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the Company, contracted before the time absolute, he ceases to be a member, and the costs, charges, and expenses of winding up the same, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors amongst themselves, such amount as may be required, not exceeding five pounds.

"We, the several persons, whose names, addresses, and descriptions are subscribed, are desirous of being formed into a Company in pursuance of this Memorandum of Association."

V. Trimming, Clerk in Holy Orders; five Medical Herbalists, and one Merchant sign this Memorandum.

The General Medical Council have had their attention called to this proposed new order of medical practitioners, and I have called their attention to the action of those medical practitioners who are now selling Midwifery Diplomas to women. These have set a fatal example, and it is not to be wondered at that others are now following their lead. If we practitioners sell diplomas in Midwifery, we shall soon have a shoal of herbalists, bone-setters and others, with their M.D. diplomas. Is it too late to entreat these medical practitioners to cease their downgrade and degrading work? It will be a long time before barristers, solicitors, veterinary surgeons, or chemists prostitute their several callings, by creating a low order of their faculties. I would therefore ask those medical practitioners who are now trying to establish a new order of midwifery practitioners to cease granting diplomas. The qualifying bodies under the Medical Acts should alone grant medical diplomas. But with the present sad example, how can we blame "medical herbalists" for following in the footsteps of these who are striving to repeal the Medical Act, which enacts that no one should practise medicine until he has studied for five years, and taken a registerable qualification in medical surgery and midwifery.—I am, yours,

Liverpool, Dec. 31st, 1893.

ROBERT RENTOUL.

MRS. GAMP AS A COUNTY COUNCIL LECTURER.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I am glad to see the NURSING RECORD opposing the action of the London County Council in applying for a Lecturer on Sick Nursing, Hygiene and "First Aid" for a term of six months, at a salary of £1 18s. 6d. a week. Such an example on the part of an influential body like the London County Council cannot fail to have an evil effect throughout the country, and tend to bring the scheme of Technical Education into disrepute. Already the plan has set in of persons who have attended a single course of lectures on a given subject, themselves starting as experts and lecturers on that same subject. But in no case is the system more disastrous than when the care and Nursing of the sick is involved. My work as a Lecturer on Nursing, Hygiene and "First Aid" in several countries during the past three years has brought me into contact with some hundreds of persons who have thus had an opportunity of disclosing to me an ignorance of the very elements of these subjects that, without such experience, I should have believed to be impossible. Not only amongst the poor is this want of knowledge shown, but in all ranks of life, though it is especially marked amongst the working classes who retain superstitions that the initiated in such matters are apt to associate with the dark ages. And it is to these, the most untaught, and the most helpless class of the community, with their strange distrust of qualified medical advice, and their superstitious faith in what they are told by the quack medicine vendor or by the sham Nurse, it is to those that the provincial County Councils are sending as messengers of health, teachers in the garb of Nurses, whose only qualification for the title is in that they have attended a course of instruction on Nursing on "First Aid," given by a more or less competent lecturer. Many examples of this have come under my own experience. One elderly woman, who, it is true, had had some previous experience, took careful notes at my own lectures, and shortly afterwards the local County Council gave her an engagement, when she retailed my lectures to audiences, a few of whom recognised the source of her inspiration. Perhaps the most amazing case I know of occurred in Somerset, where a local County Council had engaged a young woman to give instruction in cookery and laundry work. The classes were well attended and the undertaking successful, whereupon the Committee approached the teacher with the proposal that she should give further lectures on Nursing and dress-making. She knew nothing of either craft, and confessed the same. She was a smart young woman, but apparently not entirely unscrupulous. She rejected the notion of teaching dress-making, but the Nursing she readily undertook, requesting the Committee, however, to postpone the lectures for *three months*, to enable her to train as a Nurse. With this they complied, and the agreement was made, the young woman going to Edinburgh to "train." I have not been able to follow her career since, but the County Council had pledged themselves to employ this incompetent person to instruct the poor women in their district in an art which may mean life or death to their sick people.

I do not desire to overwhelm with blame the members of this County Council, but rather to point out that they need enlightening. I do not suppose they recognised the extent of the evil they sanctioned; it was no doubt done thoughtlessly. I have myself met among such men many who have an indistinct idea that Sick Nursing has something to do with children. The mayor of a large and influential town, in proposing a vote of thanks to me at the end of one of my courses of lectures, excused himself for not having been present, on the ground that he "unfortunately had no children." Others believe it consists chiefly in administering beef-tea, and smoothing the pillows of the sick bed. The members of these Committees

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)