

1680, the hall was divided by building along its sides quaint little rooms with screens running down the length of the building, a perfectly unique feature, so far as the writer knows. But go and look at this old building and see what holy calm it must have possessed, and see how it pleads, as we intend to do now, for a more wide-spread and intelligent study of history than prevails in this country. With but little care and very elementary study, an architectural fragment should call to mind whole pages of our national history, but the study of architecture is, unfortunately, not supposed to form a part of a liberal education.

Upon this point the Rev. D. Jessopp, the well-known author of "The Coming of the Friars," has, in his "Studies by a Recluse," some very suggestive remarks. He says "The cry is for useful knowledge, and from the category of useful knowledge we must exclude religion, morals and history. County Councils are losing their heads over technical education. . . . In the mean time agricultural labourers, puffed up—not built up—by all this inflation of vapoury bubble-blowing, are to be handed over to the dominion of fluent rhetoricians, appealing to their passions, their selfish greed, and to just the worst side of their characters. We are leaving them absolutely defenceless against the assaults of demagogues. How can they retain any sense of patriotism when they know nothing of the past, nothing of the lessons of history, nothing of the growth of institutions which have slowly developed out of their primal germs." But there is a wish for more light on the old things. "Men are beginning to look into the history of the parishes or neighbourhoods. Others are asking whether it is really true that their churches are more than three hundred years old, or whether the Danes really landed in the country." We cannot too earnestly plead for the study of history as told by architecture, and the young people as they grow up ought to be able to look Sunday after Sunday at some old arch or sculptured stone which may be the only ancient fragment left in their parish church, and should be able to give it, approximately, its true place in history, and to learn all the story it tells of, as Mr. Jessopp says, the "glorious record of our ancestors' doings and strivings and progress and upward climbing, and spending themselves in the long crusade against tyranny and slavery, ignorance and intolerance." It is such reflections as these that the contemplation of S. Mary's Hospital teaches. In these holiday "Notes on Art" we are wandering away from the Art as seen in Exhibitions, but we may hope that the readers of the NURSING RECORD are imbibing the Art of the past as shown by the work of people whose Art was derived from the simple teaching of nature gleaned from the lessons of the leaves and hedge rows, and who do not have seemed to be able to produce ugly things although they strove for usefulness rather than beauty.

Letters to the Editor.

THE DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—The article headed "Deceased Wife's Sister," in the NURSING RECORD, of June 23rd, has just been brought to my notice. It is a painful article for a church-

woman to read, and, as many Nurses belong to the Church, it would seem kinder not to put theological questions into a Nursing paper. The Table of Affinity in our Prayer-books is the rule of the Universal Church, and, if the Bishops had voted for any alteration in it, they would have betrayed a trust committed to them. The Church rule is, that none should marry within the third degree of relationship, either by consanguinity or by affinity. In Lev. XVIII a few instances are given, from which the whole table may be drawn, and there are more instances of affinity given than of consanguinity. Herod married his brother's wife, but St. John the Baptist did not call it right. The Corinthian Christian married his stepmother, but St. Paul did not approve. (1 Cor. v.) Many have done the same in our time, and many uncles and nieces have married, but I am afraid England will be on the down grade when their sin is made legal.—Yours faithfully,
Queen's Square, W.C. SUSAN E. ANTROBUS.

[With all deference to our correspondent, we deem it our duty to permit questions of the day to be discussed in these columns, even if they be "theological," and furthermore, to permit both sides to be discussed impartially. Our columns are open to our correspondent as they have been to other opponents of the proposed Bill, and we shall be pleased to publish any arguments, reasons or facts she may desire to advance against legislation.—ED.]

IS RE-VACCINATION COMPULSORY?

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—In answer to your correspondent "Enquirer," I should like to advise all Nurses to be guided in medical matters by the opinion of the Medical Superintendent (there is usually now in all Hospitals a medical man in charge of the health of the Nursing staff) of the Institution in which she is a worker—as to whether she should be re-vaccinated. Not having studied medicine, a Nurse cannot form a reliable opinion on the scientific methods of treating disease. The fact remains that hæmorrhagic small-pox is now a rare form of the disease, where a hundred years ago it was a common type, the appalling results of which this generation cannot estimate.—Apologising for offering an opinion, I am, etc.,
Beaumont Street, W. EMILY M. GREY.

THE REGISTRATION OF MIDWIVES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I conceive that the expression of opinions held by some of your readers who are Nurses, on the question of "Registration of Midwives," would be extremely valuable just at present, especially as there seems to be a strong feeling among Nurses for a more definite and permanent settlement of their own status. Perhaps you will allow me to state the case from one point of view, so that there may be some position which your correspondents may agree with, or give their reasons for dissent from. A midwife is a person who, with no training, or at best a training of three or six months, undertakes, and considers herself competent to undertake, the independent supervision of confinements, not only as regards the nursing part of such attendance, but also as to the medical or surgical treatment of minor abnormal or pathological conditions in both mother and child; in other words, she acts not only as a substitute for the nurse but also for the doctor. In this position they are strengthened by the possession of so-called diplomas or certificates, granted by private medical men, and which the public and the midwives themselves are apt to look upon as ample proof of their fitness for the important duties they do not hesitate to undertake. It is now proposed to give these diplomas and the midwives a legal status by registering them in the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)