

same way that medical men or dentists are registered; thereby acknowledging, confirming, and perpetuating the existence of a special order of practitioners, half doctor and half nurse, and who act, not in co-operation with, but in place of, properly trained nurses and fully qualified medical men and women. It seems to me that all lying-in women require, in every case, good nursing, and this can only be supplied by properly trained Obstetric Nurses, or, failing that, by friends of the patient acting under direct medical supervision. It ought, however, to be clearly laid down, that the duties of such Nurses should be confined to nursing, whether a medical man is in attendance or not, and that medical or surgical treatment should be prohibited, except, perhaps, such as is in the nature of "First Aid" while a doctor is being called. The function of child-birth is so important, and the dangers to mother and child so frequent, that many persons hold that a medical man or woman ought to be present at every case. If this is deemed impracticable, the nursing at any rate ought to be of the very best description and by fully-trained and registered Obstetric Nurses, and when medical skill is present, it ought to be in the person of a fully qualified and registered medical man or woman. In point of fact, the only skilled persons whom we ought to recognise as having a *locus standi* at a confinement are the fully qualified medical attendant and the fully-trained Nurse, and these always acting in co-operation and not in competition. The midwife, without the training of a nurse or the skill of a doctor, we ought not to recognise either in word or deed, much less establish and perpetuate. The present time appears to me to be a very favourable opportunity for obtaining registration for Nurses, especially for Obstetric Nurses, as there is a decided and much needed agitation going on for the provision of better attendance on lying-in women. The medical profession has shown clearly that it does not consider the Registration of Midwives likely to provide that better attendance, but that it will rather tend to perpetuate the present evils. A well considered and

definite movement for the Registration of Obstetric Nurses, would at the present time obtain an immense amount of support from the medical profession, provided their duties were strictly limited to nursing only, whether a doctor was present or not; and there is no doubt but that, with increased knowledge and diminished sphere of action, they would gradually replace midwives, and greatly benefit lying-in women.—Yours faithfully,

R. H. QUINE, L.R.C.P., &c.

[We would advise our correspondent to obtain the Register of Trained Nurses of the Royal British Nurses' Association, from the Secretary, 17, Old Cavendish Street, London, W.]

NOTE.—Many communications, etc., are unavoidably held over until next week.

## Comments and Replies.

### LETTERS RECEIVED.

- A. Miss Antrobus, London; Mrs. Roberts-Austen, Chilworth (with enclosure); Mrs. Avery, Boston, U.S.A.
- B. Miss Benn, Manchester; Mrs. Bowers, London (with enclosure).
- C. Miss Carstairs, Peebles; Miss G. Coward, Wigan.
- F. Miss A. Fowler, Aldershot; Miss Flowers, Limerick (with enclosure).
- G. Mrs. Gordon, Switzerland (with enclosure); Miss Grace, Bath.
- M. Miss Mostyn, Derby (with enclosure).
- P. Miss A. Power, Cairo; Miss Pennell, Brisbane (with enclosure).
- R. Miss Rose, Calcutta (with enclosure).
- S. Miss Somers, Norwich.
- V. Miss J. Vincent, Edinburgh.

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