

had they, when in charge of an infectious case, been allowed to solace themselves with an occasional cigarette, they would have run decidedly less risk of taking the disease. Any medical student in their place would unquestionably have smoked as often and as much as possible.—Yours very truly,
CIGARETTE.

NURSING UNIFORM.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—While the style of dress adopted by Nurses, and misnamed uniform, is abused by being worn by women who are not Nurses, and who, alas! sham true womanhood, it is natural that many of us shrink from wearing it, though we may feel that a cloak to cover one, and a bonnet of unaltering fashion is a convenience and economy. Some years ago, when addressing the R.B.N.A., on the subject of Dress, I did my best to rouse our members to a sense of their duty in the matter. As a rule, abuses are only remedied by each one doing his other part, and if even 500 of our members agreed to wear a uniform dress, or to observe certain simple rules in the wearing of a certain style of dress, it would make a marked difference in the appearance of "The Nurse" in the streets. My proposal that the R.B.N.A. should have a protected uniform, was not taken up at the time or since, so I suppose it was not acceptable to the members. We may hope that the Registered Nurses' Society will set an example by the way they wear their dress, but there must be many engaged in other work who would be glad to have a style of dress ruled for them. May I through your column invite them to consider the question? If any Members of the R.B.N.A. who agree with me, will write to me stating their desire for, and willingness to wear, a uniform, or their willingness to follow given rules in the matter of dress, I will be glad to take further steps with them to bring the matter in definite form before the authorities of our Association.—I am, Madam, faithfully yours,

4, Rutland Square, Edinburgh, E. J. R. LANDALE.
July 9th, 1894.

THE PROPOSED INFERIOR ORDER OF MIDWIFERY PRACTITIONERS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—As a number of practitioners have requested me to state in as few words as possible my policy upon the so-called registration of midwives, I may state that my aims are:—

1. To oppose any proposed legislation for the so-called registration of midwives, and so prevent the repeal of the Medical Act, 1886.

2. To supply all pregnant women, rich and poor alike, with fully educated and fully qualified medical practitioners during their confinements.

3. To give our adherence to, and our assistance in carrying out, the rule made by the General Medical Council at its May Session, 1894, relating to the illegal granting of diplomas.

4. To not interfere with the present midwives, but to insist that no more midwives be created.

5. To improve the education of obstetric Nurses, and, if need be, to support a reasonable scheme for their registration under the Charter granted to the Royal British Nurses' Association.

6. To insist that such obstetric Nurses be educated as Nurses *only*; and certificated to act as obstetric Nurses *only*, not granting them any power to attend on their sole responsibility, even so-called natural labours, nor to prescribe for, or treat any illness in the mothers, or infants.

7. To introduce in all lying-in Hospitals the system in force at the lying-in Hospitals at Oxford and Newcastle,

where district medical officers are appointed and paid a yearly salary of from £40 to £70, along with a fee of 10s. 6d. per confinement, and where a district Nurse is appointed to nurse the confined women and infants.

8. To see that the poor law infirmaries are opened for the clinical instruction of fifth year students in practical midwifery, and that the certificates of such attendances are not refused by the medical examining bodies.

9. To call the attention of the Local Government Board in England to the order of the Poor Law Commissioners, issued December 8th, 1847, to Articles 182 and 183 of that order, which provide for the payment of a midwifery fee of from 10s. to 40s. to workhouse, and district medical officers, and to see that Poor Law Guardians do not insist on contracting their medical officers out of articles 182 and 183.

10. To re-establish the apprenticeship system, as recommended by the General Medical Council, in June, 1890, and to suggest that General Medical Practitioners have, as their apprentice or pupil in midwifery for (6) six months, one fifth year medical student (who would pay pupilage fee, 5s.) so teaching him practical midwifery, and that each District Medical officer to a lying in Hospital, or the poor law medical service have one such pupil, and for six months only.

11. To recommend that practitioners in each town, establish and exclusively manage a Maternity Society, so that the wives of that portion of the industrial class (who, on the one hand, are eligible for medical charity, and, on the other, are not able to pay the higher confinement fee, and where the weekly income of the entire family from all sources does not exceed 25s.) be able to provide a medical practitioner for their confinement; that the confinement fee, for a natural labour, be 21s. paid in weekly or monthly instalments before the confinement; that such fee include four subsequent visits and vaccination; that each Practitioner have a fifth-year student apprentice, and that each Society provide an Obstetric Nurse to look after the mother and infant for seven days.

12. To petition the General Medical Council to withdraw their Recommendation No. 18 to the Medical Examining Bodies, to the effect that students be admitted to a final examination if they present a certificate showing they have "personally conducted" only three labours; but for the General Medical Council to recommend that each student must present a certificate from a medical practitioner, certifying that the student has personally conducted at least thirty labours under his immediate supervision.

13. To petition the General Medical Council to exercise their Statutory Powers by recommending that the Entrance, and the First and Second Medical Examinations be made more stringent so that fewer students would fail to pass their final examinations, and so become unqualified assistants, or go to swell the class of unqualified persons who practice medicine.

14. That the medical practitioners in each town form themselves into a society, so that they may give practical effort to the above aims, each giving 5s. to provide for expenses.—Yours faithfully,

ROBERT REID RENTOUL.

P.S.—All the above aims are discussed in my Pamphlet—"The Proposed formation of an Inferior Order of Midwifery Practitioners"—published by Messrs. Gibbons, Ranelagh Street, Liverpool. Price 1/- nett.

[We have pleasure in acceding to Dr. Rentoul's desire for the insertion of this important letter in our columns. But we venture to think he would be wise to work with those Medical Societies already established rather than attempt to institute a new Society.—ED.]

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)