

of great discomfort and discord to us all, and the relations between officials most strained, and we have many of us been subjected to things both said and done of an extremely unpleasant character. We have been kept working together in our various positions by our sense of duty and a feeling of loyal respect for our Matron, hoping and believing that she would be re-instated, and that our grievances would then receive attention, and matters be placed on a better and pleasanter footing. We beg to mention one grievance which we feel keenly, and which we have reported in a letter to the Chairman of the Board of Guardians, on December 4, 1894 (to this we have as yet received no answer), the grievance being the bringing in force of a new time-table drawn up by the Guardians instead of the one which we agreed to when we were elected. Our objection is stated in the letter. We desire in conclusion to express our entire confidence in our Matron, and our admiration of the forbearance she has shown under great provocation. We most respectfully beg that this petition may receive your consideration at an early date, and that the Matron may receive the support of the Local Government Board in face of the strong opposition and animosity displayed against her."

Miss Campbell and Miss Mill were called into the Board Room, and explained that no disrespect was intended to the Guardians, but that owing to the suspension of the Matron discipline had been relaxed at the Infirmary, and they desired that it should be known that they sympathised with her, and were anxious for her return. They repudiated the suggestion that pressure had been brought upon the Nurses to sign the letter, which they in justice to the Matron were anxious to do. Upon the motion of the Chairman, Mr. Wilkinson, who expressed himself in very autocratic terms, the Assistant Matrons were called upon to resign.

Miss TILBURY, the Superintendent of Nurses at the Lambeth Infirmary, has resigned her position, and we hope that in appointing a successor the Guardians will not attempt to make her independent of the Matron, as has been the case in the past; no Institution can be harmoniously governed where divided authority exists in the Nursing and domestic departments.

A SECOND Society of Trained Masseuses has been formed in connection with the Trained Nurses' Club, 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, and the appended prospectus sounds much more hopeful than its predecessor, lately discussed in these columns.

The Society of Trained Masseuses has been formed for the purpose of improving the training of, and organising an independent examination for, competent Masseuses. It is hoped this may establish a more uniform standard of proficiency and qualification.

The Council holds periodical examinations for candidates, who are required to produce satisfactory evidence of training and moral character. Candidates will be examined in the Theory and Practice of Massage by two examiners other than their own Instructors. Notice of the examinations will be given in *Nursing Notes*.

Successful candidates, after signing the required undertak-

ing, will receive the formal certificate of the Society, and will then be entitled to have their names placed on its roll.

Further particulars can be obtained on application to Mrs. Arthur, Hon. Sec., Society of Trained Masseuses, at the above address.

THE COUNCIL.—Miss Buckworth, Miss Griffiths, Miss Manley, Miss G. Manley, Miss Molony, Mrs. Palmer, Miss Robinson; Hon. Sec., Mrs. Arthur, a member of the Council, Trained Nurses' Club, *ex-officio*.

*Rules of the Society (subscribed to by each successful Candidate).*

1. No Massage to be undertaken except under Medical direction. No General Massage for Men to be undertaken. Occasional exceptions may be made at a Doctor's special request for urgent or Nursing cases.

2. No Advertising permitted in any but strictly Professional Papers.

3. No sale of Drugs to Patients allowed.

We are informed that the members of the Council are experienced and successful masseuses in good practice. Seven candidates gained the certificate of the Society at the first examination held on February 23. The next examination will be held in April.

NURSING NOTES says, *re* the Midwives' Bill:—

"It may be remembered that a representative Committee was formed at the meeting held at the Midwives' Institute on January 9, in order to draw up a draft Registration Bill for Midwives. Owing to unavoidable delay, this Committee only met for the first time on February 2, at 20, Hanover Square. It consisted of representatives from the principal Training Schools and Societies which have for their object the training and certification of midwives. The Midwives' Institute nominated their President as delegate.

A draft Bill has been drawn up by the Committee which in its main points agrees with the scheme suggested by the Midwives' Registration Association, and is on the whole a fair and fresh measure, dealing both with the interests of fully certificated midwives, of those in *bonâ fide* practice, and of those also who in the future will be examined and registered under the Act.

We are, however, quite aware that no measure will meet the views of the opponents of registration, who now frankly confess that they are animated by the desire for the total abolition of midwives.

Further information regarding the Bill which is now drafted will be given by the President at the next Council meeting. It behoves every midwife who cares for her old and honoured profession, and who does not desire to see it confused with the work of monthly Nurses, to give time and interest to supporting the Bill, with the principle of which many are already familiar. It is necessary for us to realise that the public mind must be awakened on the following points—(1) As to the present state of chaos in which midwifery is practised by women, the absolute right of any woman to call herself midwife, whether certified or not. (2) The threatened danger that the training of midwives should come to a standstill through the late action of the General Medical Council. If the resolution passed in November is to come into effect, even the oldest Training Schools will fear to give a certificate bearing the same value as those at present issued. This is a most important point, and it is strange that public institutions are not more awake to the future difficulties by which they will be met unless they make a stand as to the legality of their certificates. (3) Both doctors and the public should realise that midwives have an interest in life and in work as well as medical men, and that not only will their own interests suffer, but also those of the large number of poor women who have been, and ever will be, dependent on their care."

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