

Officer of Health for the district in which she purposes to practice.

XIII. *Notice of Death of Midwives.*—The Registrar of Deaths for the district shall at once report to the Midwives' Board the death of any midwife in his district, so that her name may be immediately erased by the Registrar from the Register.

XIV. *Penalty for Obtaining Registration by False Representation.*—Any woman who wilfully procures or attempts to procure herself to be placed on the Register of Midwives by making or producing, or causing to be made or produced, any false or fraudulent declaration, certificate, or representation, either in writing or otherwise, and any person assisting her therein, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, and shall, on conviction thereof, be liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds, or to be imprisoned with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding three months.

XV. *Penalty for Wilful Falsification of Register.*—Any registrar who wilfully makes or causes to be made any falsification in any matter relating to the Register of midwives shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty pounds, or to be imprisoned with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding six months.

XVI. *Prosecution of Offences.*—Any offences under this Act punishable on summary conviction may be prosecuted, and any fine under this Act recoverable on summary conviction may be recovered in manner provided by the Summary Jurisdiction Acts.

A prosecution for an offence under this Act shall not be instituted by a private person except with the consent of the Attorney-General or a County Council, but may be instituted by a County Council, or the Council of a Municipal Borough. The expenses of any prosecution shall be defrayed out of the County Fund of the district where the prosecution takes place.

XVII. *Appeal.*—Where any woman deems herself aggrieved by any order, conviction, judgment, or determination of, or by any matter or thing done under this Act by any Court of Summary Jurisdiction, such woman may appeal therefrom to the Court of Quarter Sessions.

XVIII. *Extent of Act.*—This Act shall not extend to Scotland or Ireland.

This Draft Bill has been prepared, and is issued by the Midwives' Registration Association, and we hasten to place it on permanent record so that the actual proposals and intentions of the promoters of legislation for Midwives may be made plain. We comment upon the matter in our Editorial column, and we learn that a destructive analysis and criticism of the measure appears this week in our energetic contemporary, the *Medical Times*.

'Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)

THE MODERN TRAINED NURSE.



THE Monthly Lecture of the Winter Session was delivered last week by Sir Dyce Duckworth, who took as his subject "The Modern Trained Nurse." Mr. Herbert Page, F.R.C.S., presided. There was a large attendance, close upon a hundred being present.

The Lecturer began by saying that it was now eighteen years since he was called upon to deliver the inaugural lecture when the Nursing School at St. Bartholomew's Hospital was opened. Since then great changes had happened, and he considered that he might do worse than, on the present occasion, deliver himself of a few of the ideas which for a long time had been germinating in his mind.

When the history of the 19th century, he continued, comes to be written, it will not be possible to omit, among the noteworthy developments affecting women, that most important movement, which, beginning with the band of women who, under Miss Florence Nightingale, served in the Crimea, had resulted in the systematic training of women for the skilled Nursing of the sick. The work thus inaugurated, and for a long time carried out alone in the Nightingale School, has now spread to many parts of the British Empire; England has reason to be proud of this reform, for no other country except her kinsfolk of the United States can show a like record. Germany is coming to the fore, but as yet is far behind. In France the whole matter is not only in its infancy, but the very elements are not in existence—indeed the condition of Nursing in the great French Hospitals is only worthy of the Middle Ages. And the same backwardness may be observed in other European countries. But the improvements which have been effected in this happy country were not brought about without friction; albeit the modern Trained Nurse, and the system which produced her, have been, on the whole, gladly welcomed by enlightened Managers of Hospitals. Training Schools have been established, and these do their work in wholesome rivalry, though the standard of instruction and the curriculum vary for the present, the result of a difference of opinion as to the work and time essential for the production of a competent Nurse. Indeed, the exact standard can hardly now be said to be finally established, but, without question, the requirements have steadily risen everywhere, and are still becoming more onerous. This Association, taking the experience of those most competent to judge, has determined that no woman can be efficiently trained for all the duties of a skilled Nurse in less than three years, and that, too, only in Hospitals or Institutions of a certain size where full experience may be gained, and where there is constant and competent supervision and thorough discipline. Even this high standard was by some authorities regarded as not sufficient, and they consequently impose a year's preliminary work before Hospital duty is begun. But it should be remembered that not many women could afford to set apart four years,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)