

audience showed strong and marked disapproval of their sentiments; very hostile demonstrations being made against any scheme which tended towards the legalising of "inefficient practitioners."

Sir Walter Foster, M.P., who was very cordially received, said that Parliament would have to yield in this, as in all other matters, to the voice of the people, and that Parliament needed guidance on the subject of the position of midwives, from those who are qualified to best understand the question. He strongly objected to "three months' midwives" getting a *legal* sanction to practise, and he thought all the necessities of the situation would be met by the registration of qualified medical, surgical and obstetric Nurses.

Dr. Woodcock somewhat warmly repudiated the position which a small section of the profession had taken in arrogating to themselves the right to speak for the rest, especially as they had also taken to themselves the credit of all the honour and unselfishness of the whole profession. He said that the practitioners who "crammed" these superficial midwives were anxious to get their spurious articles "hall marked," and sent out with a legal qualification, and he considered that these practitioners and their "spurious pupils" constituted a dangerous mutual admiration society.

Mr. Wheelhouse said that the Registration of three months' Midwives was a great danger to the medical profession, and still greater danger to the public, and that the agitation on this question he hoped would lead to the establishment of trained Nurses in this third branch of Nursing. Surgical Nurses were not called Nurse-surgeons, nor medical Nurses called Nurse-physicians, and he thought the term obstetric Nurse should be adopted. With regard to the argument that midwives should be allowed to attend cases of "natural labour" it was most difficult to say what was a natural labour till it was over. An ignorant woman would not recognise the latent dangers.

Mrs. Scharlieb said that qualified medical women felt how undesirable it is to have unqualified midwives practising anywhere, but more especially in India, where, up country and in remote places, it was often an absolute impossibility to get medical assistance in cases of difficulty.

Mr. Lawson Tait's resolution was then put to the meeting and carried by an overwhelming majority.

Dr. Bedford Fenwick then proposed the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this meeting it is expedient that an Act of Parliament should, as soon as possible, be passed, providing for the registration and education of medical, surgical, and obstetric Nurses; and the Council of this Association are therefore requested to consider this matter, and to take such measures as may seem to them advisable to obtain such legislation." He said that he was so well aware of the feeling of the meeting on this matter that he need say nothing in support of his resolution, but he asked them to carry it unanimously to show that they were not actuated by the low and sordid motives and the intention to prevent all reform which were ascribed to them by the supporters of legislation for midwives. The influential member who had promised to second his resolution, had been suddenly called away, and therefore he hoped someone else would formally second the motion.

A number of gentlemen rose to do this. The resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously, and with loud and prolonged applause.

Dogs, Some Camels, and My Lord Elephant.

THE way I came to visit the Dogs' Infirmary, says a writer in the *Westminster Gazette*, was in this wise. Jack, the companion of my walks for years, suddenly developed a tumour on his right fore-paw, and the thing began to grow apace. There was nothing for it, therefore, but to put him in hospital before matters got worse. How I pitied his innocence of coming evil and exile as we two made our way from Forest Hill to High Street, Sydenham, and how subdued to helpless astonishment and perplexed despair he was, when the iron gateway of his little stall closed on him! And so I left him, in his solitary cell, with this only solace, that on both sides of him were other canine brothers and sisters condemned from similar causes to a similar sunderment from home. And then those first moments of stupefaction and surprise are succeeded by weary hours, when plaintive barks and pitiable lamentation are lavished on indifferent ears. And the master, like another Baal, is too far off to attend to the melancholy appeal of his worshipper. Then comes resignation, and the canine resolve to make the best of a bad business, while awaiting the day of deliverance.

CANINE AILMENTS.

Mr. E. H. Scott, the superintendent of this "Infirmary for Dogs and Horses," is also veterinary surgeon to the Crystal Palace. He told me many things of interest to dog lovers about his patients.

"Oh, dogs never grieve themselves to death," said Mr. Scott in answer to an anxious inquiry of mine, for I was troubled by a lively sense of what Jack's anguish must be. "Now cats! that's another story altogether; and when I find a cat's pining is serious and may have a fatal termination, why, I send it home at once."

"And what are the usual ailments?"

"Tumours, eczema, eye-diseases, such as ophthalmia, cataract, conjunctivitis; and, of course, distemper, which induces disorders of the nerves, stomach, and brain."

BROKEN BONES.

"And as to broken legs?"

"I set a lot. Yes, it's done, and that easily with dogs, if they are not too old. What would be too old? Well, twelve. There is more earthy matter in the bones then. No, it need not take long. I've known a dog to be getting about in a week's time, though it might take two or three. You see, they can get about on three legs."

"Horses are done for, when the leg is broken, are they not?"

"Well, not necessarily; as a rule, yes. The expense of a cure is so great that they are generally shot. A horse would have to lie up for a year or so. For that time it would be unable to move; but then the bone would set."

"What do you give them for operations? chloroform?"

"Yes; but I use cocaine a good deal."

"I suppose you see some scenes of human grief in connexion with your patients?"

"Yes; if a dog dies in a fit, the lady owner will often burst into tears."

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