

It will be interesting to Nurses to learn that it is Professor Frankland's opinion that fever bacteria would more rapidly multiply in boiled water or milk than in the same unsterilized, but as he pointed out, it would take time for this to be effected, and while he strongly recommended sterilization in such cases, precaution should be taken to protect the water or milk sterilized, and not to keep it long before it was consumed.

One gentleman in the audience expressed a doubt if infectious diseases were ever conveyed by water companies. He believed the consumer's carelessness was in all cases to blame, and he seemed to think the consumer deserved all he got from such carelessness so long as he is so insane "as to have his front-door steps cleaned every morning, and his cistern once a year." But the aim and object of sanitarians is to save people from themselves and from the effects of their ignorance, and this is the standpoint from which the Sanitary Institute acts.

H. K.

Nursing Echoes.

* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



THE Midwife Question has been monopolising the medical press for some weeks, and its champions were so sure and so valiant on paper, that one cannot but regret for the sake of that much respected old virtue—British pluck—that the leading advocates of the proposed legislation as set forth in the Midwives Bill, lately before the House of Lords, did not avail themselves of the opportunity of expressing their views at the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association. With the exception of Dr. Cullingworth, who stood boldly to his guns, with that admirable courage which springs alone from conviction of right, the supporters of the movement were conspicuous by their silence. We have never favoured legislation for Midwives on their present basis of knowledge, for the simple reason that we seek for justice for our sex, and think that if they desire to compete with men in any branch of work, they must pass the same tests, both as to labour and knowledge. On no other basis can women's work ever be accepted

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and *paid for* as equal to men's. To practise midwifery (and as a mother we speak feelingly), women must only do so *legally*, under the Medical Acts in force for the time being, in the country in which they reside, or midwifery will naturally fall out of the curriculum of medical teaching, to the inevitable suffering and misery of mother and child in every class.

"SCOTCH MATRON" writes:

"Last week's issue of your Journal indeed contains important matter. That the British Medical Association at their Annual Meeting should have passed two such important Resolutions as those of Mr. Lawson Tait and Dr. Bedford Fenwick, is the most encouraging news which we Nurses have had for many a day. I own I have not much knowledge of the Midwives question, but the arguments used against their Registration appear eminently conclusive. If this body of workers is to be incorporated into the great professional band of Nurses, midwifery will then be studied as a speciality, upon the firm basis of thorough Nursing knowledge, and no violation of the Medical Acts will take place. It is surely better to be thus incorporated than to be repudiated as quacks by the medical profession at large. The subject, however, of Registration of Nurses by Act of Parliament (to effect which a Resolution was unanimously passed by the British Medical Association), is of the utmost importance, and I hope after all the excavating done by the British Nurses' Association, that they will have some part in erecting the great building of Nurses' Organisation. Many Trained Matrons and Nurses will support the demand for registration by Act of Parliament, who had not the patience and courage to support a tentative scheme. It is to be hoped that all the leading Nurse Training Schools will co-operate harmoniously with the medical men who have come forward to propose this much-needed reform."

On the same subject "Registered Nurse" writes:

"I was equally surprised and delighted to read the great news in last week's RECORD that at the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association, a Resolution was proposed and passed *unanimously* that the Association should take steps to effect the registration of Trained Nurses by Act of Parliament. Of course it will not come at once, but the fact that the principle has been recommended by such an important body of medical men, is the shadow cast before 'coming events.' The recommendation that the term midwifery or obstetric Nurse should supersede the term 'midwife' is what has always been recommended in the RECORD, and in these progressive days, it will doubtless be found a solution to a great difficulty. The strong and bitter feeling now widely aroused concerning the suggestion that three months' midwives should receive State sanction to practise so important a branch of medicine, will make the passing of any Bill for such a purpose impossible. I have obtained the diploma of the L.O.S. and find the special knowledge gained of immense use in conjunction with my general training as a Nurse, but I should not feel justified in 'practising midwifery' with the limited experience and know-

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