

in a Lying-in Hospital, and have satisfied, perhaps, the examiners of the Obstetrical Society of London. They represent the *élite* of the class, and foreshadow the direction in which reforms will probably proceed in the future. But to whatever section they belong, all Midwives, according to their advocates, are desirous of obtaining State recognition and legal privileges as independent practitioners of Midwifery. Their leaders, on their behalf, have again and again repudiated any intention on the part of Midwives to act under the direction and control of medical practitioners, and express their perfect confidence in themselves, and in their individual infallibility. The position, then, is this, that if such untrained persons be admitted, under the authority of Parliament, to the position which they claim, their ignorance is veiled by a State Certificate of efficiency, and they are freed from much of the responsibility which their unlicensed ignorance at present entails. Such a position is evidently fraught with dangers to the public, with detriment to the practice of midwifery, and with the destruction of every principle upon which the Medical Acts are based.

Consequently, the medical profession has hitherto strenuously opposed any attempt to pass such a measure through Parliament; but, at the same time, medical men themselves contend that the dangers of the present system are so great that all reasonable means should be taken to effect improvements and to obviate the harm which Midwives can at present do. It has been proposed that a sort of compromise should be effected, and that a class of Midwifery Nurses should be created to take the place of Midwives. This is probably the outcome of a suggestion which was first made in these columns, some years ago, that "a class of obstetric Nurses should be formed, and that Midwives should be abolished," a principle which, we are glad to know, has obtained wide support from the medical profession. But we would urge that the Midwifery-Nurse is neither one thing nor the other; she is either a Midwife or a Nurse, but she cannot be both. If she is a Midwife, and therefore claims to be independent of medical control, she acts thereby in flagrant opposition to the great principle upon which all other Nurses work. If, on the other hand, she is a Nurse, and acts under medical direction, she cannot be a Midwife in the present sense of the word; while, finally, if she is a

Nurse and does not act under medical control, she represents a new and very dangerous departure from the present well-established order of things. The British Medical Association has therefore, in our judgment, adopted a position which it will be very difficult to defend logically, by thus attempting to substitute for the old-fashioned title of Midwife the new-fangled hybrid and misleading title of Midwifery-Nurse, and, if the title be finally adopted, there can be no doubt that it will cause confusion by creating a new and totally distinct class in the Nursing world.

A meeting of the Metropolitan Counties' Branch of that Association is announced to take place this week, in order to consider this question; and it is to be hoped that some definite Resolution will be arrived at, which will place before the profession and the public, in unambiguous terms, some precise definition of this term. It is asserted, though we know not by what authority, that the British Medical Association must at its Annual Meeting this year finally decide on some form of Bill in this connection. That Association has again and again announced its intention of opposing legislation for Midwives, and it has not, so far as we are aware, determined to promote any legislation which, by a side-wind, may give to that class all that they have ever sought for. In view of the active part which the British Medical Association has, for some years past, taken in promoting Midwifery legislation, the attempt which is now being made to persuade its Branches to support legislation on a side issue is capable of more than one interpretation.

Lectures on Elementary Physiology in relation to Medical Nursing.

By BEDFORD FENWICK, M.D.

Physician to The Hospital for Women, Soho Square.

LECTURE IV.—THE EXCRETORY ORGANS.

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BY such measures—medicinal and nursing, the patient of course being kept at absolute rest in bed—the stone may be enabled to slide down the ureter into the bladder, and then the pain disappears as rapidly as it first came on. But

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