

herself present, and the ladies acting as clerk and secretary—one of whom must have received it—were also present to settle the point had it been raised. The resolution had been safely transmitted, safely delivered, and safely received, and I cannot help thinking, therefore, that the intention of the bye-law would have been practically complied with even though the missive had not been registered.

But from Miss Breay's standpoint this argument is uncalled for, because the document in question *was* registered, and she showed it at the meeting by producing the receipt from the post-office. I only mention the incident as giving colour to the impression that the hon. officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association excel in their disregard of law and justice to an extent that would seem impossible in any other body of educated men and women.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient servant,

ONE OF THE COUNCIL WHO IS ASHAMED OF IT.

THE MIDWIFE QUESTION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The Midwife question is vexing the Nursing world, and there are letters and articles from various sources, but though a constant reader of your paper, I do not see a single letter from the Doctors or Nurses of our large lying-in Hospitals, on a subject which they certainly ought to understand better than others. To me, much of the mischief done by, and the dislike of, the midwives appears to come a good deal from the custom of allowing private Nurses' small private Institutions, and even district Midwives, to prepare and send up pupils for examination. In private work we only now and again get obscure cases, and seldom get the chance of examining them; in district work it is much the same, so that the class and oral instruction is not followed up by practical experience, and is taken on "faith," how then when they do occur, are the pupils to diagnose abnormal positions, or where troublesome labour may be expected, and so send for the doctor in time to lessen or prevent the difficulty?

Midwives trained in large lying-in Hospitals would not dare risk their reputations by gross neglect of all antiseptic precautions, and the foolhardy (I can use no other term) handling of abnormal cases, which often (the "little knowledge, worse than none" of) many Midwives think nothing of, though the after consequences to the unlucky patients become years afterwards known to the doctors. Doctors would often gladly hand us over perfectly normal cases, if they were sure of us; but as long as we take first confinements, the results of which are uncertain, and send for help too late to prevent mischief, they cannot be expected to look upon us with favour; it is never pleasant to patch up ill-done work, even if it be not so badly done as to prevent even patching. General Nurses required general training. Why have not Midwives or Maternity Nurses to show a certificate of good practical obstetric work, in a good lying-in Hospital, as well as the London Obstetrical Society.

I enclose my Hospital Diplôme (not for publication) to show you I am what I sign myself,

A MATERNITY NURSE.

The Colony, Burnham, Somerset,
August 4th, 1896.

SOME DANGERS OF SEASIDE LODGINGS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The following case, illustrating one of the dangers of seaside lodgings, may be of interest to your readers, though in what way the warning may prove of value I cannot say. The public is very much at the mercy of persons unscrupulous enough to act as the persons of whom I write.

Two of my children having been ill with diphtheria, and having recovered and been duly disinfected, I decided to establish that recovery by change of air. Accordingly, I took a morning train for the South Coast, leaving instructions for them to be brought on by an afternoon train, by which time I should have been able to secure suitable accommodation.

I strolled down the parade, with my eye on the houses facing seaward, looking for one which should strike my fancy. I came presently on a large, bay-windowed villa, with balconies to every floor, with a lawn and garden in front, and a general aspect of unimpeachable healthfulness. On a signboard in the garden was the notice, "House or apartments to let. Sanitary certificate." "Here," said I to myself, "is the very thing I want." I went in. A civil and obliging person showed me a suite of rooms on the drawing-room and second floor—a suite of rooms which satisfied my somewhat exigent taste.

"There is another room—a small bed-room belonging to the suite," she said, "which I cannot just now show you, as it is still occupied; but by this afternoon, by the hour you expect the children, that and all these rooms shall have been well cleaned down, and all will be ready for you."

I arranged terms and departed satisfied. After lunch, there being still some hours to wait before the train conveying the children, with their mother and Nurse, was due, I lounged on the parade, smoking a cigar. By chance, it seemed—it may have been something more definite—I found myself leaning against a railing, facing the villa in which I had taken rooms.

I glanced up and down it, well pleased. It was sunny, airy, and altogether satisfactory. I presently spied round a corner, waiting in a side street, a hearse. The hearse drew up presently before my villa, a small coffin was brought hurriedly out, several persons got into a mourning coach, and the two vehicles drove rapidly away.

I did not finish my cigar. I had something else to do. I crossed the road, knocked at the door, pushed in when it was opened, strode upstairs to the floor I had engaged, and proceeded to take observations. Several persons were engaged with mops and brooms, and scrubbing-brushes. The rooms were being cleaned, as arranged. The door of the small room, which I had not before been allowed to enter, stood open. I went in. It was very evident from the sheeted bed, the white flowers scattered about, and a smell of carbolic, in what manner the room had been occupied. I soon discovered the circumstances. A child had died there two days earlier of scarlet fever. The funeral carriages which took its body to the cemetery were, on the return journey, to take its parents to the station; so that the rooms were vacated of these infected persons only a few hours before they were to be occupied by my still delicate family—a family I, with a sense of duty to my neighbours, had very scrupulously isolated until all danger of infection had passed.

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