

a Bill legislating for all classes of Nurses would be of public and professional value. The promoters of the "Midwifery Nurses' Bill," it would seem, imagined that they could turn these views to legislative advantage, and that a Midwife under any other name would be more acceptable and less dangerous. They will however, doubtless, learn in due season that legislation for a particular section and class of Nurses will not be deemed satisfactory by those who upon broad principles desire that all classes of Nurses should be placed under efficient control and be properly educated for the very responsible duties they are called upon to fulfil.

The Metropolitan Counties' Branch of the British Medical Association first resolved that the title of the proposed Bill should be, as a matter of honesty, the "Midwives' Registration Bill," instead of, as proposed, one for "Midwifery-Nurses"; and the meeting then determined to waste no further time over the measure; merely re-affirming its opposition to, and its disapproval of, any attempt to convert Midwives, by that or any other name, into an inferior order of medical practitioners.

It is naturally a source of much gratification to us to find that the tide of medical opinion is running so strongly in support of the scheme which was first suggested in this journal, and in favour of the principles upon which we have again and again insisted. Reforms are undoubtedly required to prevent the injury which is wrought to many poor women by incompetent attendance during and after their confinements; but piecemeal and therefore ineffective legislation would in this matter, as in all others, do infinitely more harm than good to those whom it is desired to safeguard. And, on the other hand, an attempt to create a special order of Nurses working on entirely different principles from those which rightly govern the whole Nursing profession at present, would be as injurious to Nurses as the promoters of the measure evidently desire. The somewhat hysterical indignation which they have expressed against those who desire to place all Nurses under medical control and direction rather strengthens the belief that the Midwifery Nurses' Bill was intended not only to aggrandise Midwives, but also to injure Nurses.

We are, moreover, compelled, as the representative organ of the Nursing profession in this country, to protest very strongly against the proposal made in the

Midwifery Nurses' Bill, that a separate class of Nurses should be created who should be more or less independent of medical control, because we, and all trained Nurses, regard this as a novel principle which would be most dangerous in its application. In the next place, the suggestion that Midwifery Nurses should be legally unable to prescribe poisons makes it for the first time possible to assume that Nurses are empowered to prescribe non-poisonous drugs—an assumption which we regard as so vitally affecting the relations between the medical and Nursing professions, and so detrimental to both, that we emphatically condemn it; and are fain to express our surprise that any body of medical men should have ventured to make proposals so dangerous to the public and so detrimental to their own profession.

The decisive action taken by the Metropolitan Counties' Branch is probably significant of that which will be taken by other Branches of the British Medical Association upon this matter, and in that case we may hope that the Midwifery Nurses' Bill will be speedily relegated to the obscurity which it deserves.

## 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.

*(Continued from page 511.)*

HERE are two drugs which are of the greatest importance in Kidney disease, because one of these is frequently given, and one is usually most carefully withheld from the patient. Iron in some form or other is of extreme importance to patients who are losing a greater or less amount of albumen from their system, and it often makes all the difference between life and death whether the patient can take and absorb a sufficient quantity of this drug.

It is therefore of great moment that the Nurse should watch the effects produced upon the patient, and report them immediately and accurately to the Doctor. Sometimes one form of Iron will agree well when another will appear to be doing harm rather than good. As a general rule, in cases of kidney disease,

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