

ing matters, when applied to—an increase of its staff appears necessary. We observe that the Guardians of St. Olave's Infirmary suspended the late Matron, and forwarded their accusations concerning her on March 26th to the Local Government Board, and it was not until June 30th that the Secretary of that body informed the Guardians and the Matron "that they do not find adequate foundation for the charges brought against Miss Evans," and, in fact, exonerated her on all points.

* * *

Is not three whole months an unwarrantable time for an innocent woman to be suspended from duty upon unproven charges? Very few women have the physical strength to endure months of mental anxiety, such as Miss Evans has endured, for conscience' sake; and the terrible and complete breakdown of health of the late Matron of the Lewisham New Infirmary, under similar circumstances, seems to point a moral which we had hoped the Local Government Board would have taken to heart in dealing with Nursing Departments under the Poor Law.

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DEEP sympathy will be felt for the parents of Miss Hilda Barlow Smith, a staff Nurse at the Children's Hospital, Pendlebury, who last week committed suicide by taking chloroform, and who, when dying, stated that "She wanted to die; her work was too much for her, and her responsibility too great." It is unfortunate that this poor girl should have continued in Hospital work, if she found—as many do—the mental strain of training too much for her. The work of the Nurses in the Pendlebury Hospital is universally acknowledged to be organized on most liberal lines, and the comfort of the nursing staff, both in the Home and the wards, considered in every particular; but at the same time Hospital committees must recognise the truth that it is the mental strain of conscientiously attending upon the sick day after day which exhausts the nervous system of a woman far more than the laborious (and I venture to think, in a measure, healthy) manual labour of scrubbing and cleaning. The old Nurse, in ignorance, "did for" her patients daily with the same unconcern with which she polished her tables and chairs; the new Nurse, if she is of the right sort, works at the cost of her nervous system, and not only at the expense of her muscles.

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MIDWIVES and Nurses are to receive a large share of attention at the forthcoming meeting of the British Medical Association. The follow-

ing notices of motion have been sent to the Secretary:—

Dr. Brassey Brierley hereby gives notice that he will move:

"(a) That in the opinion of this meeting, inasmuch as Midwives or Midwifery Nurses cannot be dealt with on equal terms with other Nurses, no Bill is feasible which has for its object the "Registration of all Nurses" with a common standard of education, and, if it were so, is not advisable.

(b) This meeting is of opinion that the amended Bill of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch is calculated to meet all present difficulties as far as Midwifery Nurses or Midwives are concerned, and that, as far as other Nurses go, no difficulty exists."

We regret that we cannot agree with Dr. Brassey Brierley. A very real difficulty always meets those who attempt to ignore the conscientious conviction of any section of the community, and educated Nurses are convinced that their claim to a system of legal registration is *just*, and that such a system would be for the benefit of the public and their profession. Nursing reform and organisation have been initiated by the Nurses themselves, and they are hopeful that the medical profession will aid them in their justifiable attempt to secure these benefits. Should that hope prove fallacious, they must take their cause before the great tribunal of public opinion.

The question of efficient Nursing is sooner or later one of vital importance to the "beloved ones" of all, rich and poor; and sooner or later, if necessary, the cause of the public and the trained Nurse being one, they will unite and gain their common end.

Dr. Rentoul gives notice he will move:

"This Section of Obstetrics and Gynæcology of the British Medical Association instructs the Council of the Association to take immediate steps:—

(a) To induce all Boards of Guardians in England and Wales to appoint and pay (under the provision made by the General Order of the Local Government Board, England, January, 1892) District Obstetric Nurses, who shall nurse women in, and whose confinements are to be conducted by their District Medical Officers.

(b) To induce all Boards of Guardians in England and Wales to adopt the Extra Midwifery Fee Order of the Local Government Board, England, June, 1847, whereby guardians are empowered to pay a fee varying from 10s. to 40s., to their medical officer opposite each Poor-law confinement conducted by him, and to cease to make their medical officers contract themselves out of such Order."

Mr. Lawson Tait hereby gives notice that he will move:

"That, in consideration of the fact that dissatisfaction has been expressed by various Branches with respect to the government of the British Medical Association, this Annual General Meeting is of opinion

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)