

possess both), we shall, in the end, accomplish even more valuable reforms.

It is rumoured that Mrs. Dacre-Craven has definitely resigned, *this time*, the position of Honorary Nurse Secretary to the Royal British Nurses' Association, after her recent re-election on October 12th. That the Honorary Officers should withhold (or shall we humour the Editorial Committee by saying "suppress"?) this interesting item of information in this month's *Nurses' Journal*, is not surprising.

The Midwives Question.

AN important discussion upon the above subject, which we quote below, is reported in the *Lancet* of last week as having taken place at the late Meeting of the General Medical Council. We have expressed our own views upon this matter in another column. We hope that all midwives will study closely the suggestions which are made upon this, to them, most important subject.

The Registrar, at the last meeting of the General Medical Council, read the following report:—

"The Executive Committee inform the Council that they have received the following report from the Midwives Registration Bill Committee:

"The Midwives Registration Bill Committee beg leave to report to the Executive Committee that, having regard to the letter from the Privy Council Office of November 20th, 1897, they are of opinion that there is no necessity for them to submit any observations to the Council on the Bill of last session.

"They are further of opinion that it is desirable that the Council should appoint a committee to report on any Bill for the registration of midwives that may be introduced during next session of Parliament and that may be referred to the Council by the Government.

"RICHARD T. THORNE, Chairman.
"November 22nd, 1897."

On the motion of Mr. Brown there was added to the report the letter of Sir Charles Lennox Peel, which was to this effect: "I have submitted to the Lord President of the Council your letter of the 13th inst. on the subject of the Midwives Registration Bill of last session, and in reply I am directed by his Grace to state, for the information of the General Medical Council, that there would appear to be no necessity for the Council to consider the provisions of the Bill until it is reintroduced."

Sir Richard Thorne moved that the Council adopt the report and appoint the present Committee to report upon any Midwives Registration Bill which might be submitted to the Council by the Lord President before or during the present session of Parliament.

Dr. Glover seconded this motion.

Mr. Horsley said that he thought the functions of the Council in this connection were to do something more than merely alter Bills sent down by the Privy Council, and he thought the letter of Sir Charles Lennox Peel showed that the Privy Council expected something more. He would suggest that the Committee be appointed to watch the progress of the Midwives question.

Sir Richard Thorne said he did not think it would be possible for such a Committee as this, composed of members from all parts of the kingdom, to watch the progress of the question.

Mr. Horsley pointed out that watching committees were frequently appointed by other bodies when legislation was in active progress or was threatened. Upon this subject they were threatened with legislation, and it might be necessary for this Council not merely to report upon any given Bill, but to tell the Privy Council how far any legislation on the subject interfered with the existing Medical Acts. He moved in accordance with his suggestion.

Dr. Bruce seconded the motion.

Mr. Brown expressed the opinion that the motion of Sir Richard Thorne would meet the whole case.

Mr. Carter said it would be a wholly new departure for this Council to take anything that could be looked upon as an initiative step with regard to midwifery. They had never regarded the question as falling within the proper limits of their activity except in so far as they had responded to an appeal made to them by the Government for their opinion as a medical body upon particular propositions. It was not for the Committee to discuss general questions, because these would afterwards have to be discussed by the whole Council if they were discussed at all.

After some further discussion Mr. Horsley withdrew his motion, and the motion of Sir Richard Thorne was agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. Brown, seconded by Dr. Glover, the name of Mr. Horsley was added to the list of the Committee to take the place of Dr. Rentoul.

Dr. McVail then moved:—"That the General Medical Council is of opinion that the practice of midwifery cannot be safely entrusted to persons who have a less knowledge of midwifery and of medicine and surgery than is required for admission to the Medical Register."

This, he said, was in his opinion a fitting opportunity for the Council to give a clear expression of opinion upon this question, which had been exciting so much attention. To do so would be of very considerable assistance to the Government and to any Members of Parliament who might be induced to introduce a new Bill, and it would lighten the labours and clear the way of the Committee of the Council on the subject.

Dr. Glover, rising to a point of order, asked

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