

difference of opinion they agreed upon a clause providing that in every case attended by a midwifery nurse in which the labour was unusually prolonged or difficult, or in the after period of which there was anything unsatisfactory in the health of the mother or child, the midwifery nurse should send without delay for one of such registered men as should be appointed for such purpose by the local sanitary authority. Dr. McVail said that the curriculum of these women would be short and the examination worth nothing at all. But a very small amount of training was a very great additional security for the patient, and this was amply proved by the statistics of maternity institutions. As to men being included in the scope of this legislation, he did not believe that any Parliament would sanction anything of the kind, and, moreover, the present Medical Acts forbade it. Midwives they had with them now as they had always had them, and the object of this legislation was to bring them under control and limit their numbers. As to the 500,000 women attended by midwives, Dr. McVail proposed to make them all paupers, a thing which would never be tolerated. He hoped the Council would not adopt this resolution, which he insisted would destroy the influence of the Council and the profession in controlling this legislation. If this resolution were passed it would take the matter entirely out of the hands of the Council and of the profession. According to any practical proposals this Council was to sanction the rules that were to be provided, and these rules were to be administered by a body consisting almost wholly of medical men. This resolution would stultify the Council and contradict its previous resolutions, and would be a hint to the Government that in this matter they should not seek the advice of the Council.

Dr. MacAlister, seconded by Mr. Bryant, moved as an amendment:—"That it is inexpedient for the Council to commit itself to an abstract resolution which may preclude it from giving full consideration to any future Midwives Registration Bill submitted to it by the Government."

Dr. Atthill said that in all the circumstances he thought this amendment was very judicious.

A reply from Dr. McVail having been heard, the vote was taken, when Dr. MacAlister's amendment was carried by sixteen votes to six.

The amendment was then put as a substantive motion.

Mr. Brown said he wished to take the opportunity of explaining his position with regard to the clause referred to by Dr. Glover. He only agreed to the clause by way of minimizing the manifest evils of the Bill, and he reserved to himself the right to prepare a minority report to the effect that no legislation of this kind was necessary.

The amendment was carried as a substantive motion and became the finding of the Council."

Nursing Echoes.

* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



THE Queen has caused to be handed to the Hon. Sydney Holland, hon. treasurer of the Queen's Commemoration Fund on behalf of the Queen's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, the sum of £1100, which was personally offered to Her Majesty by the deputation from the Girls' Friendly Society received at Windsor Castle. We hope Mr. Holland will use his influence on the Council to extend the term of training for "Queen's Nurses" in England, at least to the same standard as that demanded by the Scottish Branch.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS LOUISE, Marchioness of Lorne, opened on Tuesday the new Brough Nurses' Home at Paisley; her Royal Highness was most enthusiastically received. As President of the Scottish Branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, she of course takes precedence in nursing matters in Scotland.

A LETTER from Miss C. E. Guthrie Wright, hon. secretary of the Scottish Branch of the Jubilee Institute, published in the *Scotsman*, brings out several interesting points:—

"Queen's nurses are educated, highly trained women, pledged to work loyally under doctors, and yet so far as possible qualified not only to act in emergencies, but to teach the simpler laws of health and prevention of disease, and when necessary are specially trained to dispense. In a remote district, in one of the Islands, a Queen's nurse had not long ago to grapple, practically alone, with successive outbreaks of influenza and of typhoid, the doctor being thirty miles away, the roads almost impassable, and her only instructions being obtained by telegram. All her training and her experience were, said this nurse, little enough. If trained nurses are desirable for town work, how infinitely more necessary they are for districts remote from doctors, and even from telegraph offices."

The Scottish Branch now gives its nurses two and a half years' training. We hope soon to see a standard of three years' curriculum established in our native land for "Queen's Nurses." Imagine a woman with three or even six months' "training" in charge of a serious case of illness, and the doctor "thirty miles away." Poor patient!

MISS GUTHRIE WRIGHT also says:—"The Scottish Council have already trained two Gaelic-speaking nurses for Invernesshire, and are

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)