

We leave our readers to draw their own conclusions, both as to the honourable methods of the *Hospital* newspaper, as to the reliance which its readers can place upon its truthfulness, and as to the reason why the Middlesex Hospital officials are afraid of a public inquiry into Nursing matters.

VOX POPULI.

WE are glad to find that our speeches at Hornsey on the mismanagement of the Royal British Nurses' Association have been widely reported in the lay press—the medical press, with one exception, as usual, maintaining silence on this question. The *Medical Times* says:—"A large and influential meeting, convened by the Women's Liberal Association, was held, on February 11th, at Hornsey. The scandals in connection with the Royal British Nurses' Association were freely discussed, and the action of a small clique of Middlesex Hospital medical men was strongly condemned. Finally, the following resolution was unanimously passed: 'In view of the great public and professional interests involved in the management of the Royal British Nurses' Association, this meeting is of opinion that a public inquiry is imperatively needed into the conduct of its business by the present hon. officers; and it, therefore, hopes that all Members of Parliament will support the motion for the appointment of a Select Committee, which is to be made this session in the House of Commons, 'to inquire into the whole Nursing question.' The few members of the Middlesex Hospital staff who are now managing the Nurses' Association, are, undoubtedly, bringing much discredit, both on themselves and the institution to which they are attached. Their professional brethren certainly will not support them in their efforts to evade the public inquiry, which is being widely demanded, into the charges which have been publicly made against them. Such an evasion admits of only one explanation."

JOBBERY.

It has been suggested that a Public Meeting should be held to protest against the packing of the General Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association with members of the Middlesex medical and nursing staffs, if Mr. Fardon again attempts this unjust method of government. We are much in favour of the suggestion, especially as so many of the public are being aroused to the injustice and even the harmfulness of depriving nurse members of the Royal British Nurses' Association of a voice in the government of their own professional affairs by a small clique of the Middlesex Hospital staff.

THE MIDWIVES REGISTRATION BILL.

THE Right Hon. John B. Balfour has secured the eighth place in the balloting list for Private

Members' Bills, so that the Midwives Bill which was introduced into the House of Commons, and passed its first reading on the 11th inst., is put down for the second reading on May the 11th, when the first place on the list for the day has been secured. This year the Bill is backed by Mr. J. B. Balfour, Mr. Tatton Egerton, Mr. Swann, Mr. Skewes-Cox, Mr. Cosmo Bonsor (Treasurer of Guy's), Mr. Heywood Johnstone, Mr. Hazell and Mr. Tennant, and is identical with that introduced last year by Mr. Tatton Egerton. We have dealt with the Bill in this week's Editorial.

THE *British Medical Journal* has some interesting editorial remarks on the Midwives Registration Bill, to which there is such strong opposition upon the part of a very large number of registered medical practitioners; and it is interesting to note the following suggestion:—

"There is a third course which might be followed, and we rather think it would be the best course by which to secure a really satisfactory enactment, and that is a reference of the Bill to a Select Committee empowered to consider also the Obstetric Nurses Registration Bill and the whole nursing question. Such an inquiry has already been talked of. There is a wide and important field for investigation, and much valuable reform to be secured."

This is an expression of opinion with which we are in entire sympathy, and a course of action we have actively advocated for some time. Legislation without investigation must produce further disorganization instead of reform.

Presentations.

A PRESENTATION of special interest took place last week at the Grand Hotel, Aberdeen, when Miss Rachel Frances Lumsden, the retiring Hon. Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen, was presented with an address, in album form, containing the signatures of over sixty medical men in Aberdeen and London. The presentation took this form as Miss Lumsden declined to receive a gift of any intrinsic value; the only way open, therefore, to the many members of the medical profession who desired to give permanent expression to their appreciation of her services in the cause of Nursing Reform, was to present her with an autograph address. Miss Lumsden has in the course of a distinguished nursing career, of over twenty years' duration, rendered important service to the cause of nursing. As honorary superintendent of the Royal Aberdeen Hospital for Sick Children for eight years, and afterwards of the Royal Aberdeen Infirmary for twelve, Miss Lumsden, in the face of many difficulties, raised the standard of nursing education in these institutions, and by the excellence of her administrative work, and the manner in which she achieved necessary reforms and improvements, gained the

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