

labour only, and shall tend, as a nurse, the mother and child during the lying-in period."

"The third principle is that there shall be instituted a proper system of supervision and teaching of midwives or midwifery nurses by the medical profession. The report of the Committee from those members who are opposed to medical reforms, but who did not venture in the Council itself to give expression to their antagonisms, inasmuch as this memorandum of the opinions of the Council is, like the Committee's report, a categorical condemnation of Mr. G. B. Balfour's Bill, nothing can be more satisfactory to the profession than the obtaining from the Council a unanimous denunciation of a Bill, which not only afforded no protection to the public, but seriously threatened the *lawful rights of the registered medical practitioner*. (The italics are ours). At the same time, I wish to particularly draw the attention of the profession to a very important point involved in this decision—namely, that now the General Medical Council has officially accepted in full the principle laid down by the Committee, that no unqualified person should practise with impunity for gain, it necessarily follows, as a logical sequence, that this step in advance involves the support of the Council to future legislation, which may be brought forward for the strengthening of the Medical Acts in this direction; and the earnestness of the feeling of the Council upon the matter was displayed in so unmistakeable a manner, that the opposite view to which strong expression has recently been given in the medical press, found upon this occasion absolutely no exponent."

And both Sir Dyce Duckworth, and Mr. Brudenell Carter were present!

Exit Mr. G. B. Balfour's Bill.

How many nurses, we wonder, will appreciate at its true value, the true inwardness of this report?

1. The medical profession by Act of Parliament have "legal rights" to protect.
2. Their professional interests are controlled by a medical council composed of medical men.
3. On this council sit "direct representatives" elected by medical men.
4. When their professional interests are threatened they combine with "an earnestness of feeling" in "so unmistakable a manner" that they can pass a unanimous report which is bound to carry just weight with Parliament.

When will women, and nurses in particular, learn the great lesson that "unity is strength," and that without legal status their professional interests are as chaff before the wind?

A TERRIBLE CHARGE.

WE have before referred to the fact that a nurse at the Menston West Riding Asylum has been arrested on the charge of murdering her child. This nurse (Mabel Mercer, aged twenty-one) has now been committed for trial at the assizes, bail being refused. The prisoner has admitted the birth of the child, but asserts that it was born dead.

Appointments.

MATRONS.

MISS MARY ESTHER JONES has been appointed Matron of the Birmingham General Hospital, out of sixty applicants for the post. Miss Jones was trained and certificated at the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool, and after acting as sister at the Cardiff Infirmary, and sister and night superintendent at the Monsall Fever Hospital, was appointed Matron of the Devizes Cottage Hospital, and subsequently of the Middlesborough Sanatorium. In 1893, Miss Jones was appointed to the important position of Matron of the Eastern Fever Hospital, Homerton, under the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and upon the opening of the new Park Hospital, Lewisham, obtained the position of Matron, a post which she resigns for that of Matron of the Birmingham General Hospital, one of the most important—and certainly the most modern—of all provincial hospitals. We learn of this lady's appointment with much pleasure, and feel sure that the reputation which the nursing department of the Birmingham General Hospital has attained under Miss Zara Stevenson, will be maintained by her successor. Miss Jones is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and a registered nurse, and deserves the gratitude of her fellow matrons in that she courageously recorded her vote against depriving them of their *av-officio* seats on the Executive Committee, and thus depreciating their influence in their own Association.

MISS CONSTANCE BOBBY has been appointed Matron of the Louth (Lincolnshire) Hospital. Miss Bobby was trained and certificated at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and subsequently received special training in children's nursing at the Victoria Hospital, Chelsea. She has held the positions of Sister of the children's wards, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Charge Nurse at Chalmer's Hospital, Edinburgh, and Matron of the Cottage Hospital, Nuneaton. Miss Bobby is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and a registered nurse.

SISTER IN CHARGE.

MISS GRACE MACNAUGHTON has been appointed Sister in Charge of the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen. Miss Macnaughton was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, where she has held the position of staff nurse, and in her new post at Aberdeen she has not been given the position or authority of lady superintendent, "but merely Sister in Charge under the medical superintendent." This cannot be considered a satisfactory arrangement, and it is certainly a retrograde step in the organization of the nursing department at the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen, where the position of the Hon. Lady Superintendent was for so many years clearly defined, No

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