

leading medical woman, so that the deputation appeared before the Duke of Devonshire with the disadvantage of the unanswered opposition of the chief newspaper in the country. The Association, however, believed that there was an answer to the hostility which has been aroused, and subsequently sent this to the *Times*, but that journal had not given the publicity to the one side of the question that it had given to the other. He thought they had a right to complain of a mode of warfare which gave the fullest publicity to one side and no publicity to the reply.

Dr. Annie McCall said that Great Britain was the only civilized country left in Europe which had not taken action in regard to the registration of midwives. This arose, no doubt, partly from the fact that English people are too respectable to talk of unpleasant subjects, but it was scarcely creditable to us. The opposition to the bill was stated to come in a great measure from the Medical Profession. She thought that to some extent the reason for this was because they feared their pockets might be touched if midwives obtained legal status. It was requisite that the Medical Profession should take a more generous view of the position, and be willing to help midwives by being at their back.

Dr. Cullingworth said in referring to the deputation to the Duke of Devonshire, that that body had been rewarded with a patient hearing and with sage advice. That advice would immediately be acted upon.

Upon discussion being thrown to the meeting Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D., rose, and ably defended her letter to the *Times*. She asked whether the midwives were to be trained for a subordinate position, or for one of complete independence. She saw no indication in the Bill that they should be in any position but one of complete independence. With regard to the remark as to criminal knowledge she should not have made it unless she had believed it to be deeply true. Many women in trouble were prepared to do anything, and in the course of her practice not ten or twenty, but hundreds had come to her for assistance. She was able to say "you are asking me to commit a felony, you are making a monstrous proposal," and the answer was that if she would not accede to the request there were plenty of people across the channel who would. Mrs. Garrett Anderson seemed to think that the temptation of large sums of money offered to midwives who, as a rule, earned only 5/- or 7/6 for attending a case would be too great to be resisted, but in this we are happy to believe her to be mistaken. The present day trained midwife would, we believe, consider a proposition of this nature quite as monstrous as Mrs. Garrett Anderson herself could do. Mrs. Anderson commented also on the enormous lying-in, hospitals necessitated by foreign methods, and the horrible customs which prevailed in them. The position of medical men abroad, was, in her opinion, very different to what it is in England, and if it were not for the hotels and the water cures she did not know what they would do for practice. Every doctor had a brother who kept an hotel, and they worked in together.

The Secretary of the Women's Co-operative Society said that she thought that, so far as medical men were concerned, they might safely be left to look after their own interests; they had, by the line they had already taken, shown that they were by no means blind to them.

The meeting terminated after the usual vote of thanks.

## Sketches.

### A THIRST FOR SCIENCE.

IRISH HOUSEMAID, hysterically (staggering into Matron's office): "Begorra! an' it is all av' the creeps that oi am, murthur it is that's been done, and meselfs the witness. Perlice! perlice!" (heartrending wails).

MATRON (brutal Saxon): "Stop it, Bridget."

Bridget stops it—horror still depicted on her ghastly face.

DOVE-EYED PRO. enters, dimpling delightfully: "Oh! Matron, I'm the culprit; my cousin Jack lent me a skeleton, and I just hitched it on to the peg in my wardrobe, and in an inquisitive moment, I presume, Bridget—"

BRIDGET: "Oh! the howly Saints!"

MATRON pacifies and disposes of shattered domestic, and hands a *fleshy* little parcel to dove-eyed Pro.: "This was found by the laundress in your apron pocket."

DOVE-EYED PRO. (dimpling deeply): "Oh! Matron, I'm so sorry—but it isn't human—I assure you it isn't human, it's only a sheep's kidney—Cousin Jack—"

MATRON, slowly (drawing hieroglyphics on her blotting paper): "Cousin Jacks are against the Rules—you understand me nurse—"

PRO. (pinking): "Certainly, Matron! for the future he shall be—John."

The door closes!

### NIGHT DUTY.

Nurse, who is showing the relatives of a patient who is seriously ill out of the ward, finds two-pence pushed into her hand. She explains that, "gratuities are forbidden by the hospital regulations."

Grateful Friend: "Garn, take it, nurse, there's no one a-looking."

### SAVOIR FAIRE.

BEREAVED relative visiting the hospital mortuary lifts the head of the dear departed and exclaims suspiciously, "How light it is!"

MORTUARY PORTER (with aplomb) "Why, of course. Didn't you know he died light-headed?"

### FIN DE SIECLE.

SYMPATHETIC FRIEND to Mortuary Porter (upon returning from the funeral of his aged mother) "And 'ow did the ceremony go hoff?"

MORTUARY PORTER. "Oh! very fair—very fair—everything up to date excepting I wasn't in time to arrange a P. Hem."

### AFRICAN HOSPITAL.

SHARP AFRICAN who has prepared everything for a small operation, and feels competent to carry the thing through—to operator: "Will you do it. or shall I?"

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