

great difference of opinion on this matter. Many nurses hold that proof of adequate training in medical and surgical nursing should be sufficient qualification, and midwifery, or obstetric nursing, should be an additional acquirement, while others urge that as nursing is the handmaid of medicine, the education of nurses should proceed on the same lines as that of medical practitioners, and that all nurses should be required to have a knowledge of medical, surgical, and obstetric nursing.

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THERE is much to be said on both sides, and we refrain from offering an opinion while inviting our readers to express their own in these columns. Those who support the former view hold that midwifery is not associated with general nursing, and is a distinct branch; indeed, they doubt whether it can in any way be considered as nursing, while at the same time most nurses are of opinion that obstetric nurses should have a knowledge of general nursing, as they do not recognize the principle of registering any speciality. Those who hold the opposite view contend that a nurse's education is incomplete unless she is competent to act as a monthly nurse, and that a monthly nurse without a knowledge of midwifery is not a safe person. They say that as a medical practitioner is required to obtain a minimum amount of obstetric experience before registration, although he may not contemplate ever practising as an obstetrician, so a nurse should, during her training, be required to obtain a certain amount of knowledge of this branch, although she may not intend to take it up after certification.

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ANOTHER view which is sometimes advanced is that a woman who attends maternity cases exceeds her duty as a nurse, inasmuch as she undertakes to work without medical supervision, and so becomes an independent practitioner, and the reply advanced to this argument is that obstetric nursing differs from any other kind of nursing, as child-bearing is not a disease but a natural process. So long as it remains a natural process the obstetric nurse is within her right in attending it, but directly abnormal symptoms, which it is her duty to be able to recognize, manifest themselves, then it behoves her at once to call in a medical practitioner, and those who hold the latter view also maintain that if she does not do so, then, under these circumstances, she exceeds the limits within which a nurse should work.

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THERE is no doubt that this question is one which might well be threshed out, and we shall be pleased to publish the views of any of our readers with regard to it.

CANDIDATES for the L.O.S. certificate are largely on the increase, and at the last examination 163 candidates passed, and are thus certified to the public as trained Midwives. It is to be hoped that a large proportion of these workers are trained nurses, but we fear this is not the case.

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THE surgeon general's office of the War Department in Washington wants more immune nurses for the yellow fever hospitals in Cuba, and circulars will be sent throughout the South requesting applications. The surgeon general's office to which all applications should be addressed requires that each applicant should furnish written indorsements from her physicians, the wife of her pastor, or from her priest, as the case may be, and a physician's certificate stating that the applicant is strong and in good health. The department is preparing another party of seventeen female trained nurses for Matanzas.

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AMERICANS know how to honour those to whom honour is due, and striking evidence of this was afforded when Miss Ellen May Tower, who died while serving her country as a nurse, in Porto Rico, was laid to rest. The body was received at Detroit from New York over the Michigan Central Railway, and lay in state at the Light Guard Armoury, fully five thousand people of all classes being in attendance. The depot also was crowded with people and there was a small escort of members of Company M, and a drum corps from the Light Guard Band. The veteran association of the Light Guard also sent a contingent, and many nurses from Grace Hospital, where the nurse was on duty before her departure for the South were present.

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WHEN the body was removed from the train a wide aisle was formed by the police, and every head was bared as the casket covered with the American flag was borne to the hearse. When the sad procession arrived at the armoury which was filled with people the casket was placed on a platform which had been beautifully decorated. Over it was a canopy of black and white, the pillars being entwined with pink and white, the colours of the Grace Hospital. In the background the American flag hung in artistic folds, and the casket and the front of the platform were covered with flowers, placed there by loving hands. The nurses of the Grace Hospital presented a pretty pillow of lilies of the valley and carnations, bearing their emblem and motto, "Ever loyal, ever true." The remains were subsequently conveyed to Byron, Michigan, Miss Tower's home, and the funeral was a public one. No nurse can desire a better end than to die in harness, in the service of her country, and to have that service publicly recognized by her fellow country men and women.

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