

(6) To report at once to the *Central* Midwives Board the death of any midwife in his district, so that the necessary alterations may be made in the *roll*.

It is no doubt a great gain that the work of midwives should be under the supervision and control of a public authority, and all well trained midwives would welcome such supervision, but it seems impossible that any midwife should consent to submit to the regulation restricting her work to the limits of a certain locality. Would any workman or woman consent to have the area in which they are permitted to work defined by law? Would any professional man or woman—any medical practitioner for instance—consent to like limitations? The very fact that such a regulation should have been proposed proves the estimation in which the capacity of women is held by those who legislate for them, but I cannot believe that Parliament will consent, at the end of the 19th century, to such restrictive, and unfair, legislation.

10. MIDWIVES CERTIFICATES.—*A woman who holds herself out as a practising midwife in any administrative county, shall obtain from the local supervising authority a certificate enabling her to practise therein, which certificate shall be granted on proof by the woman that her name is on the midwives roll. The certificate shall remain in force till the thirty-first day of December following and shall be revocable at any time by the local supervising authority in case the holder be proved, to the satisfaction of the Central Midwives Board, to have infringed any of the regulations framed under this Act. The certificate shall be renewed annually in the month of January. It shall be issued free of charge, and shall only be available in the county for which it is issued.*

This regulation merely emphasises the fact that the midwife's right to practice extends over only one year, and that at the expiration of that year, unless she renews her licence, she is liable to summary conviction if she continues to practise her vocation.

(To be continued.)

A Quotation.

The following paragraph has been going the round of the press:—

"I hear that the Queen's Jubilee Nursing Association is being greatly hampered in certain Northern towns by the refusal of local doctors to allow their poorer patients to avail themselves of the help provided by the nurses. At the places in question, district nursing homes have not, therefore, been opened up. As I understand the matter, the local doctors fear that the nurses would begin prescribing for patients, and thus tend to depreciate the value of their practices. The association was started to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee. In the East of London the clergy and their Bishop, as well as other workers among the poor, acknowledge, with the warmest gratitude, that the Queen's Nurses have, by their practical example, succeeded in inspiring the people with higher sanitary and moral ideals where exhortation and precept have hitherto failed."

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.



A SAD accident took place at the New Year's entertainment at St. Pancras Infirmary, which was, fortunately, unattended by loss of life. In the course of the entertainment a nurse entered the hall in which it was being given, dressed in fancy costume, a portion of which was made of cotton-wool. Her dress came into contact with a lighted candle on a table, and in an instant she was partially enveloped in flames. Dr. Chilcott, the Medical Superintendent, and another nurse with admirable courage and presence of mind, promptly sprang to her aid. Both nurses were severely burned on their faces and arms, but are progressing favourably.

It is, however, time we think that so inflammable a material as cotton wool should be prohibited as an article of dress and decoration in hospitals and other public institutions. More than one death has occurred from its use, and it is time, we think, that Hospital Committees issued stringent directions on this matter. The danger entailed by this use of cotton wool is a very grave one. We remember being horrified one Christmas, on being invited, in a hospital, to inspect a "cotton wool baby," to find a sick infant in a swing cot, of which the curtains and quilt were entirely composed of cotton wool, decorated with trails of ivy and holly berries. We shuddered to think what might be the fate of the child, should a spark fall upon its dangerous decorations, and plainly expressed our views. Another point of view is that subscribers to institutions which are constantly pleading poverty, and are unable to pay their butcher and baker, may reasonably object to funds being expended upon cotton wool to be used in this way.

At a recent meeting of the House Committee of the Lincoln County Hospital, the Chairman referred to the fact that the Matron, Miss C. M. Beachcroft, was about to leave them after about fourteen years faithful service, and on the proposition of Mr. C. C. Sibthorp, seconded by Dr. Mitchinson, a resolution of sincere regret was ordered to be entered on the minutes.

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