

appointment to H.R.H. herself, who contributed from funds at her disposal £10,000 towards the outfit of the ship, and has taken a keen and personal interest in every detail of the fitting up of the ship and in every patient on her. Of course there is to be an Admiralty or Board of Trade inquiry—I forget which—into the conduct of this engineer. I may add that the ship's crew and engineers were not elected by the Central Red Cross Committee or by H.R.H.'s committee, but were appointed and paid by the owners of the ship."

Colonial Nurses on Active Service.

THE names of the nurses selected in Adelaide, South Australia, for work in South Africa, and who left Melbourne on the *Australasia* on February 21st, were as follows:—Miss M. S. Bidmead, trained in the Adelaide Hospital, at present Charge Nurse in the Burra Hospital; Miss A. B. Stephenson, trained in the Adelaide Hospital, Charge Nurse there at present; Miss A. M. Glenie, trained in the Private Hospital, North Adelaide, and at Miss Tibbit's Private Hospital; Miss O'Shanahan, trained in North Adelaide Private Hospital, and Charge Nurse there at present; Miss A. G. Cocks, trained in Adelaide Hospital; Miss E. Watts, trained in Miss Tibbit's Private Hospital, and Charge Nurse there at present. Miss Grafe was chosen as an emergency nurse in case any of the others are unable to go.

The Passing Bell.

It is with great regret that we record the death from influenza, upon which pneumonia supervened, of Miss Mary Frances Barrow, the Lady Superintendent of the General Infirmary, Chester, a position she has held with great success for nearly twenty years. Miss Barrow was a Member of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, and took a great interest in its progress. Her loss will be sincerely deplored by her professional colleagues. During her tenure of office many improvements were made in the nursing arrangements of the Chester Infirmary, and a private nursing staff was instituted, which has proved a great benefit to the citizens. She has left behind her a record of good work, well done, and it was only fitting that she should be laid to rest with every mark of esteem and affection. The Chairman of the Hospital, and many members of the medical and nursing staffs were present at her funeral, as well as the Bishop of the Diocese and many other of her friends.

The Midwives' Bill.

By MISS MARGARET BREAY,
*Formerly Superintendent of St. John's Maternity Home,
Battersea.*

IN view of the fact that the Midwives' Bill has passed its second reading, and may, consequently, become law, the names of its promoters will be of interest to readers of the NURSING RECORD.

The Midwives' Bill Committee is constituted as follows:—

Mr. Charles Bill, M.P., *Dr. J. Watt Black, Mr. H. Cosmo Bonsor, M.P., Mr. Edmund Boulnois, M.P., Dr. Robert Boxall, Dr. F. H. Champneys, Mr. C. E. H. A. Colston, M.P., Mr. Creighton, *Dr. C. J. Cullingworth, Hon. Alan de Tatton Egerton, M.P., Dr. Clement Godson, Mr. W. Hazell, M.P., Dr. G. E. Herman, *Mr. T. Almond Hind, Mr. J. H. Johnstone, M.P., The Right Hon. William Lidderdale, *Mr. A. W. Lightbody, Mrs. C. Mallett, Miss Annie McCall, M.D., Mr. W. Pritchard Morgan, M.P., Mr. Henry Owen, *Miss Rosalind Paget, *Dr. E. C. Perry, *Dr. J. B. Potter, Dr. H. Rayner, Miss Lucy Robinson, Mrs. Charles Roundell, Mrs. Scharlieb, M.D., *Mr. C. E. Schwann, M.P., Mrs. Schwann, Mr. T. Skewes-Cox, M.P., Mr. H. J. Tennant, M.P., Mr. A. Money Wigram, Sir John Williams, Bart., M.D., and *Miss Wilson. Honorary Secretary: *Mr. F. Rowland Humphreys. Acting Secretary: *Mr. G. W. Duncan.

One hopes that these ladies and gentlemen realize the serious responsibility they are undertaking in promoting a measure, under which the position of midwives becomes so intolerable that they are forced to face the question whether they will give up the calling for which they have qualified themselves, it may be by years of hard work, work for which they believe themselves to be well fitted, in which they have proved that they gain the gratitude of hundreds of working women, and, by which, they are able to earn a living, or whether they will submit to be governed by a Central Board composed principally, if not exclusively, of medical practitioners, and by local supervising authorities—who possess the power to suspend them from practice, and to report them to the Central Board for mal-practice—appointed by the county and borough councils, on which no woman is permitted to sit. This is the cruel position which midwives now find themselves compelled to consider. And, as if the Bill already proposed were not drastic, and penal enough, the Council of the British Medical Association have met and drafted amendments to the Midwives' Bill, as read a second time in the House of Commons,

* Members of the Executive Committee.

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