

its weaknesses? Let each nurse bring these questions home to herself and answer them in the searchlight of conscience.

The great army of self-sacrificing workers in this profession need no defence or public recognition. Their noble deeds are performed, and their devotion to duty and charitable works are bestowed without thought of favorable comment. Their reward is sufficient in knowing simply that they are helping those more needy than themselves, and that they are doing it for the love of humanity. If any record is made it is made by Him who said: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these ye have done it unto me."

Many of you here probably read in the Detroit Free Press that beautiful tribute paid by the Rev. Reed Stuart to Queen Victoria. Because we are women with ideals, and nurses with an aim and a purpose in life, let me repeat the closing lines here: "It is not fashion, nor wealth, nor social position that imports. Only truth and love and faith and duty, and a passion for spiritual ideals can make life possess any lasting value. All who thus live, whether in a palace or in a cottage, belong to earth's nobility. Queens crowned of God, their empire is not bounded by India or the islands of the sea; it includes the sunrise and the sunset and the splendid stars."

### Reforms at the National Hospital.

At the special general meeting of governors and subscribers of the National Hospital for the Paralyzed and Epileptic, held at the hospital in Queen Square on Saturday, the report of the Committee of Enquiry was adopted, and a committee of nine, consisting of the following, was constituted to deal with the recommendations it contained:—Appointed by the committee: Mr. Timothy Holmes, Mr. J. Danvers Power (hon. secretary of the committee of investigation), Mr. James Wigan, and Mr. Melvill Green; by the medical staff: Dr. Ormerod and Sir Felix Semon; and Mr. John Pearman, with Mr. Colin Campbell, Mr. G. W. E. Russell, and another gentleman will represent the board of management. This committee will report to the governors their recommendations and actions.

The office of secretary-director, held by Mr. Burford Rawlings, is thus abolished, and Mr. Rawlings has tendered his resignation to the Board, and no one will deny that his long years of faithful service in the interest of the hospital, if a little out of date, deserve ample recognition. We hope he will be awarded a very handsome pension. With such medical autocrats as Sir James Crichton Browne busying himself in the concerns of the institution the Board must be careful to strictly maintain the balance of power in the management of the National Hospital. To do this they will have to exercise a more vigilant control of the government than they have done hitherto. "No Popery" must be their motto.

### The Royal British Nurses' Association.

#### THE MIDWIFE QUESTION—BETTER LATE THAN NEVER.

At the recent quarterly Council Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, the correspondence and arrangements which took place six months ago between the Medical Defence Union and the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association on the Midwife question were brought forward by Mr. Fardon and dealt with *for the first time!*

Mr. Fardon said that a "misapprehension" had arisen with regard to the intentions of the Association (to be accurate he should have said the Executive Committee) and their Midwives List, and (now their illegal conduct of business has been called in question), he hastened to state that nothing was further from the thoughts of himself and his supporters than to agree to the suggestion that the Midwives' List should be termed a "List of Midwifery Nurses," or that a footnote should be appended to the forthcoming issue of this List, stating that the L.O.S. certificate was for the training of midwifery nurses, and not a certificate qualifying them to act as midwives; and to prove that nothing whatsoever had occurred which might be detrimental to the professional interests of the nurse members, Mr. Fardon at last produced and read the correspondence which had taken place on the question between the officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association and the Secretary of the Medical Defence Union, Mr. Bateman, six months ago, and finished up by proposing a formal resolution in reference to the new "Title" of the Midwives' List, and a "Note" to be appended to the List, which are quite uncalled for if, as Mr. Fardon asserts, he had never contemplated any alteration in reference to this List. The existing statement on the Midwives' List in the Royal British Nurses' Association Roll is correct. Why alter it?

Why? Because Mr. Fardon and his Committee *did* promise six months ago to take action which would be "injurious to the interests of the Nurses," and we repeat, without the slightest fear of *documentary refutation*, that Mr. Fardon and his Committee not only promised Mr. Bateman, the secretary of the Medical Defence Union, that in the new Midwives' List the persons whose names would appear should be described as *Midwifery Nurses*, and not midwives, but that they carried out their promise by publishing the fact in the advertisement columns of the

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