

Surgical Nursing"; Mr. John Poland deals with the anatomy of the human body; Mr. Chisholm Williams lectures, amongst other things, on Bacteria, Antiseptics, &c.; and Mr. Jackson Clarke deals with "The Preparation of Patients for Operation" and "The Nurse's Duties in the Operating Theatre." Particulars as to the syllabus of the lectures may be obtained from the Matron of the hospital.

A point of importance to doctors, midwives, and patients was brought up at an inquest held recently at the Lambeth Coroner's Court by Dr. Wellington, Deputy Coroner. The evidence showed that a midwife who was in attendance upon a patient went for assistance to St. Thomas's Hospital. Two medical students went to the house, and, after staying a short time, left, though one of them returned later. In the meantime the child had been born, and three hours later it died. Dr. Childs, obstetric physician at St. Thomas's Hospital, said that the cause of death was inefficient expansion of the lungs. In reply to a question from the foreman of the jury, he said that it was the invariable rule to send unqualified men to attend such cases. The jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes, and added a rider that in their opinion qualified medical men should attend all such cases. Dr. Child said the hospital sent to about forty-five cases a week, and the qualified men would not submit to attend them. A jurymen thereupon said he thought it a terrible admission to make.

In relation to the medical aspect of the question, we must point out that the hospital in question undertakes these cases presumably for the education of its medical students. From the educational standpoint it has seemed to us, for long, a very defective method to send out students to pick up knowledge as best they may, instead of supervising their work and teaching them the best manner of its performance. Such a rough-and-ready procedure has long since been eliminated from other branches of medical instruction, and for the perfection of training-school organisation we think in the teaching of midwifery it should be replaced by a better method.

In regard to midwives. If, as in the present instance, a midwife who is skilful in, and qualified for her work, feels that the patient needs more assistance than she can give, it is little use to send to her aid unqualified medical students who have only seen a few cases, and who are merely pupils. What she needs is the help of a skilled obstetrician.

From the patient's point of view, surely if she sends for a doctor she is entitled to the attendance of one, unless it is intimated to her that an unqualified person is sent. Any other course appears to us equivalent to covering unqualified practice.

We notice that in replying to a correspondent, "Stand Fast," the *Queen* newspaper remarks that, having failed to join the Nurses' Co-operation, "your friend might now apply to the Chartered Nurses' Society, or the Registered Nurses' Society."

Speaking officially for the Registered Nurses' Society, this suggestion is very misleading, as one of the strict rules of the Society is that no candidate can be accepted who has previously applied to, and been refused membership by, either the Nurses' Co-operation or the Chartered Nurses' Society—a rule to which we have drawn the attention of the editor of the *Queen*.

With the view of combating the excessive infantile mortality in and about Dunkirk, an institution has been established on the initiative of M. G. Vancanwenberghe, Mayor of St. Pol, named "La Goutte de Lait," through which it is hoped to superintend the nursing of infants, and to provide the poor with proper milk for feeding their children. It is proposed to give rewards to those mothers who nurse their children, and, in cases where this is impossible, to provide them with sterilised milk. The interest of one of the principal Doctors of the Faculty of Lille has been secured, and the children will be inspected once a week by him. A British resident, Mr. S. Davenport, has contributed 30,000 francs to the funds of the institution.

An interesting exhibition and sale of old china is being organised in Cardiff by a committee of experts, to take place at the end of December, on behalf of the funds of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute. Dr. Garrett Horder is acting as Hon. Secretary. The promoters believe that a collection of Welsh china (Swansea, Nantgarw, and Llanelly) can be arranged of sufficient importance to attract many connoisseurs. It is also hoped that pieces may be presented for sale. It is well known that many interesting "bits" are to be found in the homes of the working classes, and it is thought that, as the Jubilee nurses do so much good work amongst patients of this class, many would be glad to contribute small pieces of china if such a sale were organised. We have no doubt the idea will prove very successful.

The Superintendent Nurse of the Dudley Board of Guardians reported at a recent meeting that certain complaints which had been made against her to the Board by nurses under her were, in her opinion, due to the action of one of the Guardians, who had used his influence against her with a nurse who had since left, and had interfered with her authority by discussing her with her subordinates.

Mr. Taylor said that there had been so much unpleasantness, and so many resignations of nurses, that he would move a vote of want of con-

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