

sity arose to tend her patient in the capacity of a Monthly Nurse, has not risen to the full dignity, nor fitted herself to assume the full responsibilities of her calling. It would be possible to go further and reason from analogy that only those who possessed this thorough knowledge are likely to succeed in every day practice, and that consequently, as time goes on, it will be more and more usual to find that Midwives are well versed in Nursing details, and more and more rare to find them pretending to disdain such work.

It is a matter of common knowledge that in Medicine and Surgery it is the "practical" Physician or Surgeon, not the mere scientific observer, who attracts patients and wins professional success. It is the Medical man who knows not only that his patients require good Nursing, but also what good Nursing is, and who could if needs be nurse them himself; who not only has acquired knowledge, but can readily apply it; who in short believes that *cure* is synonymous in medicine with *care*. So in like manner we believe that once Midwives acquire by means of Registration a recognised position—which, of course, hitherto they have not possessed—it will be found that the most successful members of the calling are those who are best acquainted with its practical details, who are therefore both Midwives and Nurses.

No one can obtain a Medical qualification in this country unless he has passed through a complete course of instruction in every branch of his work, so that the Obstetric Physician brings to his speciality a thorough knowledge, not only of Midwifery, but also of general Medicine and Surgery. So in all regard for the future credit as well as the enhanced usefulness of Midwives, we look forward to the time when it will be necessary for each aspirant to the title to produce evidence that she has passed through a complete course of Nursing instruction.

How then could such a curriculum be arranged? Some months ago, when attempting to forecast the future developments of the training and education of Nurses, we commented upon the difficulty which small country Hospitals might find in taking Probationers for a longer period of training than two years. But let it become the rule for Midwives and Monthly Nurses also—as to whom we will hereafter refer at length—to receive a preliminary training in Nursing, and an enormous field would at once be open to such Institutions from which their workers could be drawn. For we imagine that two years spent in a country Infirmary, which, it is generally admitted, furnishes opportunities of practical experience far superior to those obtainable in large metropolitan or provincial Hospitals to which medical schools are attached, would give amply sufficient training

in general Nursing. Then, as to special teaching in Obstetrics, at present the number of Lying-in Hospitals which take pupils is very restricted, but there can be no doubt that, if the demand arose for more, and more extended, opportunities, there would be no difficulty in finding public Institutions throughout the country able and willing to provide facilities for teaching Midwifery.

The place of instruction being found, a complete course of tuition would easily follow, and the details as to cost are, we believe, capable of equally easy solution. And once more we would express our strong feeling that the instruction given should comprise not only Midwifery, but all the special points of Monthly Nursing in addition. A course of lectures on the theory of obstetrics, and a course of practical demonstrations would, we presume, be essential elements in such tuition; but personal attendance under some supervision upon at least twenty cases of labour, and actual work for at least three months in Lying-in Wards are, we contend, alike equally necessary.

Will it be said that we have sketched out too ambitious and extensive a curriculum for Midwives to pass through? Then let us remind our readers that we are only dealing with the question of what we have termed "first-class" workers—those who propose to work in future amongst the general public. We have drawn no fancy portrait of what may be, but merely attempted, in the light of the advance in Medical education since Registration was commenced thirty years ago, to forecast the advances which are certain to ensue in the education of Midwives from the institution of their Registration. We do not desire to be didactic. Time, we believe, will show that we have under, rather than over, estimated the extent to which the training and instruction of Midwives will, within a very few years, be raised. If, on the other hand, it be complained that we think too highly of their future, we reply that, seeing the enormous interests involved in their knowledge or ineptitude, the thousands of lives annually committed to their care, it is of national moment that they should be trained in the highest and best way possible for the vastly important work they have to do.

To seem not to hear remarks which are intended to annoy you is a species of negative insincerity which is in many cases commendable. It disappoints and baffles the insulter and prevents a profitless war of words. Such dissimulation may be the means of preventing a breach of the peace! and the "easier way is the best" when the other way is not imperative.

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