

"THE difference between a Medical man and a Midwife is, that the one is educated and the other is not, and that he is quick to recognise any indications of sepsis, and to deal with them *secundum artem*. It is gratifying to know that with very little intelligent trouble this risk of Midwifery may be abolished. And every Obstetric practitioner, male or female, should regard the abolition as one of the prime duties of practice, at whatever personal inconvenience."

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My readers will be interested in the *Graphic* of last week, which contains an account and pictorial representation of the marriage of Miss Elcock, late Matron of the Jaffray Hospital at Birmingham. She was given away by Mr. Jaffray, and the bridesmaids were Nurses of the Institution. Great happiness in her new life will be cordially wished her by the many friends she has made in the profession.

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I NOTE that the Committee of the Newcastle Royal Infirmary are considering a scheme which may lead to their taking Probationers to train for Nursing institutions. There is no doubt whatsoever but that a very good work is done in the Wards of the Infirmary, and should the scheme be carried through, Medical and Surgical lectures will be given during the coming winter months. I believe the school takes almost, if not the first rank as regards the thoroughness of the experience (particularly as regards Surgery) to be found within its walls; and I should be glad to hear of it becoming more known in Nursing circles, for it is quite worthy of a front place, more especially as I learn that certain improvements are about to be undertaken, by which, before many months pass, it is hoped to bring it more prominently into notice. As it is, Probationers are now much required, and I would impress upon those who are about to engage in Nursing work to write to the Matron and Superintendent for full particulars as to terms, rules, &c.

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MR. EDITOR wishes me to state that, owing to the number of Essays upon "The best Collection of Recipes in Invalid Cookery" sent in, the judges' award cannot possibly be given until next issue, although he had hoped to have been able to announce it this week.

S. G.

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

I HAVE had the following from the *Woman's Journal*, Boston, sent to me, which I feel sure my readers will appreciate:—

"Late in the month of July, 188—, I took up

a newspaper printed in a small country town in the State of Maine, and read the following advertisement:—

"WANTED, a woman from twenty-five to forty years old as nurse for an invalid, and when not looking after her, to take charge of a young child. Must be able to do some plain sewing, and amiable and obliging. Wages from two to three dollars per week. Address, *with stamp*.

RESSERD H. HENRY, —, Me.

"Now I was over twenty-five and less than forty, accustomed to the care of the sick, in fact, never more at home than when in the sick-room, and very fond of children. I could do plain sewing, or fine either, for that matter, and my friends were kind enough to call me amiable and obliging. Reverses had come upon me suddenly. Like many another 'only child,' I was utterly unlearned in the art of caring for myself. It had never occurred to my fond parents that I might some day be obliged to do this very thing, and so I found myself without trade or profession, confronting the world with only some of my dear mother's good common-sense, and my noble father's pluck and perseverance, for an inheritance.

"As I have hinted, it was positively necessary for me to provide for myself, and that at once. So I read this 'ad' a second time, and wondered if I had better answer it or not. I was too unlearned in the ways of the world, at least of the working world, to read between the lines of this 'ad,' and I supposed, of course, that I should receive such treatment from the hands of this father and mother, as another, similarly situated, would have received at the hands of my father and mother.

"The wages certainly did look small. But they were better than nothing, I argued, and so I answered the 'ad' in my prettiest handwriting, announcing myself as a candidate for the position.

"How anxiously I waited the reply. It was all so new to me, this depending upon myself and facing the world alone; and this little venture assumed gigantic proportions as I waited mail after mail for my answer. As soon as I could reasonably expect, a reply came, asking me to call at such a street and number for a personal interview. I was in a tremor of excitement; my heart literally seemed to rise in my throat; but I resolved to carry out the programme as Fate seemed to be arranging it. So, dressing myself neatly and in a manner becoming my present position, I wended my way to the appointed place. Finding the number named on the postal-card, I rang the door-bell. The house was a fine-looking brick structure, with handsome finish and broad stone steps. The neighbourhood was one of the best in the city, and every indication bespoke wealth and refinement.

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