

into it. The opposition lets us see ourselves as others see us, and that is an invaluable boon to us. It lets us see what faults may be discovered—or imagined, in the present case, because the faults that have been pointed out up to the present have been only imaginary ones. I wish to point out what I know is considered to be a great objection to this Association. It is supposed, by many men of importance, that we propose to establish a Central Board, before which Nurses are to come to be examined very much as students are examined before the Boards of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons. Now such an intention has never been harboured by those connected with this Association, and were it, I should oppose it with the greatest vigour. I think nothing could be more injurious at present, and even in the future, than an attempt to establish a Central Board such as is established in connection with Physicians and Surgeons. It is desirable that this great objection should be known to be non-existent. In the ninth page of the proposed Charter there are words which might be strained to bear that meaning, but I am sure they are not intended to do so. I should like this meeting to consider who are the people who will derive benefit from the proposed Registration of Midwives. For this purpose you must divide the community into the rich and the poor, who are both fortunately not very large classes. The poor, however, are a much larger class than the rich. The rich can very well provide for themselves, and they do not require the efforts of an association such as this. This Association will be nevertheless of great value to the rich. It will be to the rich of the same value as it will be to all other classes. Then with regard to the poor; they are also provided for. The Guardians of the Poor will, however, find the Register we propose to establish of infinite value to them, as it will enable them to judge who are fit Nurses and who are fit Midwives for their establishments. Then you have the enormous middle class, and it is towards that class that our eyes should be directed if we are to properly frame an institution such as this. The great middle class range from above the pauper classes up to the moderately rich. Now I must confess I see great difficulty in the application of the benefits of this Association in the way of Trained Nurses to that class. At present Trained Nurses are too expensive. The middle class, the great mass of the community, cannot afford to pay Trained Nurses. If you look at the documents which Trained Nurses' Associations circulate you will find that the charges are something like fifteen guineas a month, which is of course completely exclusive. Were this the proper time and place, I

might point out various ways in which this difficulty might be got over, and in which, moreover, Trained Nurses might be made available even to the humblest members of the community, who are above pauperism. I mention this, because in the case of midwifery there is no such difficulty. As Dr. Priestly has told you, there are about ten thousand of these excellent women practising. Every family, however humble it may be, has a Midwife or Monthly Nurse. It is not only requisite—it is the custom—it is the habit of the people to have a Midwife for every woman. So that the field in which this Association will have to work has not to be made. It is already made. The Committee of the Association only have to see that the Midwives are properly educated and trained and registered. I do not propose to tell you what has been done in England and Scotland with this view. The Obstetrical Society take a great deal of care in Examining Nurses, and I believe their Certificate is valued very highly indeed. I may point out a fact which I think there is no reason to deplore. When this Association was first conceived it was not intended to include Midwives in its operations. From the very first day of its establishment I took care to point out that I thought that reservation was a great mistake, and I am happy that it is now corrected, and that this Association embraces in its scope Midwives as well as Nurses. The fact is a Midwife is only a Trained Nurse. A Midwife and a Monthly Nurse are precisely the same thing. In my own home I never heard of a Trained Nurse, but there was always a Monthly Nurse, and also on one occasion a Midwife. A Trained Nurse is a new idea, and the public have to learn it; it has yet to be discovered; the value of it has still to be brought home to the great mass of the community. I may point out what is rather interesting in this connection, viz., that in the Victoria Institute for Nurses, which was founded by Her Majesty with the money given her at Jubilee time, the same error was committed, so that this Association is by no means singular in this particular. In that Institute they commenced by having only Trained Nurses, but they found very soon that the really popular nursing for the country was nursing of a monthly character, and by a Midwife. Every one of us must come into the world, and every one requires the aid of the Midwife or Monthly Nurse. Every one does not get a leg broken, so that he requires a Trained Nurse. The Victoria Institute has introduced as a great part, if not the chief part, of its operations, the functions of the useful class of Midwives. I am sure the Association, by immensely increasing its area by the introduction of Midwives, will enormously increase its utility.

Sir HENRY ACLAND said: The resolution that

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