

as "midwives." The Midwives' Act has created a sharp line of division between those who desire to be registered as midwives—that is to say, who desire to work as independent practitioners under the Midwives' Board, and, for the most part, amongst the very poor—and those who desire to do maternity nursing under the supervision of medical practitioners, and, for the most part, amongst the middle and upper classes. The former class require a certificate of efficiency as a midwife; for the latter class such a certificate is not necessary; whilst an independent Maternity Nursing certificate is certainly valuable. In fact, the time has come when, it is only right to point out, such nurses must make their decision whether they intend to be midwives, and be registered as such, or whether they desire to work as monthly nurses; because, in the former case, they will act as competitors with medical men; in the latter case only as the doctors' assistant; and it can hardly be expected that medical practitioners will employ a woman, who may be an active competitor with themselves, to act as a monthly nurse under their direction. In short, the nurse who becomes registered as a midwife obtains a definite legal status as a practitioner of midwifery; but, on the other hand, she is not likely to receive any assistance or work from medical practitioners as a monthly nurse. We trust these remarks will remove some of the misconceptions which evidently exist at present in the minds of our readers on this important subject.

### British Nurses and Japan.

The sympathy of British nurses with Japan, as shown by their desire to offer their services to the sick and wounded should war, unhappily, be declared with Russia, proves that nurses, at least, have not lost the chivalrous impulse which inspires the desire to place one's services at the disposal of the weaker side. The suggestion of a lay contemporary that only harm can be done to nursing by any movement which may tend to render nurses partisans of either Japan or Russia is, of course, absurd, as in war between countries recognising the Geneva Convention no distinction is made between the sick and wounded, all being equally cared for.

It will be remembered how splendidly English nurses came forward at the time of the Græco-Turkish War; how, in spite of the inaction of the British Red Cross Society, of politicians, and of the majority of the aristocracy, the public were so imbued with a belief in the righteousness of the Greek cause that they subscribed, through the Press, £10,000 to send medical and nursing aid to the Greek soldiers. So well was this fund—organised by the *Daily Chronicle*—managed, that at the conclusion of the war £3,000 was handed over to the King of the Hellenes to be expended on the refugees.

In strong relief to the majority of those in high places one figure stands out conspicuously—that of the present Queen, who, as Princess of Wales, took the warmest interest in the Fund, and wrote autograph letters to the Queen of the Hellenes, commending the British nurses to her, so that their prestige was assured. This gracious action on the part of Her Majesty will not soon be forgotten by the nurses who served through the war. If evidence of the appreciation of their work is needed, it is to be found in the fact that when, as a result of the lessons of the war, a new Military Hospital was built at Athens, a British nurse was appointed Superintendent.

If any English nurses desire to offer their services to Japan, we shall be pleased to give them any practical advice in our power, and to open the columns of this journal to them. Those nurses who find themselves in sympathy with Russia can, of course, place themselves at the disposal of that Power.

### Medicine and Nursing in the South African War.

#### THE ROYAL COMMISSION.

(Concluded from page 11.)

EVIDENCE OF SIR FREDERICK TREVES, BART.,  
C.B., K.C.V.O.

Sir Frederick Treves said that the most striking fault of the Army Medical Service was over-organisation. It was almost strangled by the mechanical elements introduced into it, and its administration was almost unworkable. The success of the work in Natal was due to the fact that the military medical organisation was entirely thrown aside. An enormous number of safeguards were imposed, apparently based on the impression that an officer put in charge of a hospital is likely to be incapable, and that his incapacity will be minimised by restrictions of all kinds. The Service was an extremely extravagant one. An officer supposed to be specially qualified receives high pay, and then he is put to do work which is practically better done by a clerk at a pound or so a week.

Again, the outfit of a field hospital is theoretically complete for any climate in the world, from the Polar regions to the Equator, and that had to be dragged all over the country. Quite half the outfit in South Africa could have been thrown away and never missed.

The witness said that, in conjunction with Sir Alfred Fripp, he had inspected twenty-two military hospitals at home. Our military hospitals did not come up to the level of a workhouse infirmary, and they ought to be brought to that level. The public would scarcely credit that at Chatham sick men are actually kept in old gun casemates.

In regard to the washing of utensils, Sir Frederick

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