

facilitate the certification of those nurses of the Belfast Maternity Hospital who claimed to be certified previous to the receipt by the Board of the properly framed application by the Hospital for the recognition of their certificate under Section 2 of the Midwives' Act." Dr. Byers, in his letter above referred to, stated that the Board of Governors of the Belfast Maternity Hospital were willing to accept an arrangement by which those nurses trained by the Institution who applied to the Central Midwives' Board before April 1st, 1905, should be placed upon the Roll of certified midwives.

Mr. Ward Cousins urged that all the women who were eligible by holding the certificate of the Belfast Maternity Hospital, about fifty in all, should be placed on the Roll, and pleaded the cause of the nurses, to whom he said an injustice had been done. Sir William Sinclair, who said he should exasperate matters if he spoke quite frankly, seconded the resolution, and proceeded to use considerable plainness of speech. He said the institution had been treated illegally. On October 14th, 1904, they sent in an informal application for the recognition of their certificate. On February 14th, 1905, they sent in a formal one, the consideration of which was deferred until the meeting of the Board on March 23rd, when the Chairman, according to his recollection, said it was too late, and the application was refused. It was the will of the Board to do this tryannical act.

The Chairman explained that the application on February 14th was for recognition as a training-school which was granted. On March 23rd the first application for the recognition of the certificate was received.

Mr. Parker Young said he would be sorry to do any one an injustice, but he thought that the suggestion in Dr. Byer's letter met the difficulty. He did not see how the Board could enrol women who had never applied to them. He, therefore, proposed as an amendment that the suggestion of the Privy Council, and accepted by Dr. Byers, should be adopted.

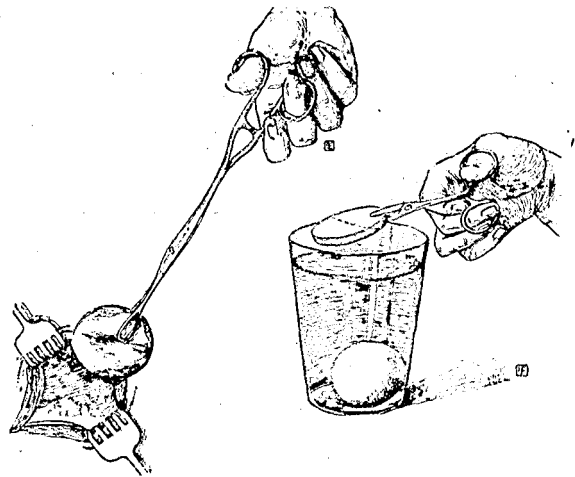
This having been seconded, the Chairman said he would like to point out that there could be no illegality in the action of the Board as Sir William Sinclair suggested, because the Board had the power of choice. It might have made a mistake, but there could be no question of illegality. He did not say on March 23rd that the application was too late. That was an impossibility, because it was not too late under the Act.

Mr. Parker Young's amendment was carried, no one supporting Mr. Ward Cousins' and Sir William Sinclair's resolution but Mrs. Latter, Sir William Sinclair and Mrs. Latter then left, the parting shot of the former to the Board being that he had almost believed that for once they were going to do a dignified action.

We think the decision of the Board was a wise one. It certainly would have been unjust not to enrol those midwives who made application on the Belfast certificate before the termination of the period of grace, but for those who neglected to do so the examination of the Midwives' Board is open. They are responsible women, and if an Act affecting them was passed and they did not acquaint themselves with its provisions, and take steps to comply with them, the consequence is on their own heads. It must not be forgotten, however, that the Midwives' Act does not apply to Ireland, and only affects Irish midwives if they practise in this country.

Practical Points.

Many nurses and hospital authorities will be glad to know that **Compressed Cotton Sponges.** sponges can now be obtained in a compressed form. Bernay's sponges, which are a substitute for sea sponges, are round thin discs of highly compressed, absorbent cotton, which when placed in water swell to ten times their thickness. They are supplied in boxes contain-



ing four dozen, and are packed so that one can be easily removed without harm to the remainder. These sponges which were on view at the recent London Medical Exhibition, are supplied by Messrs. Johnson and Johnson, of New Brunswick, N.J., the London agents being John Timpson and Co., Ltd., 104, Golden Lane, E.C. The accompanying illustration shows the sponge in its original form and after it has been placed in water, when it assumes the form of a ball.

By this is meant the changing—
The Peptonis- either complete or partial—of the
ing of Foods. proteid matter into peptone by artificial means, *i.e.*, outside the body.

In a healthy body the proteid part of the food which is eaten, *e.g.*, white of egg, casein of milk, fibrin of meat, &c., is converted into peptone in the stomach by the action of the juice of the stomach or gastric juice; any that remains unchanged is passed on into the duodenum, where it is acted upon by the bile and pancreatic juices.

The gastric and pancreatic juices each contain a particular ferment which has the power of converting proteid into peptone; and when food is artificially peptonised these ferments are obtained from animals' stomachs and pancreas and specially prepared for this use.

These ferments will only act under certain conditions, which are, of course, supplied naturally in the body, and care must be taken to supply them when "peptonising" artificially.

The most important of these conditions are:—

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