

were false except as regards the register, which she got as soon as she could afford it.

A letter was also read from a Mr. Stannard stating he had known her for forty years, and that no one in Darlington had had more experience. She was much sought after, "not only as a midwife, but in cases of death."

*Decision.*—Name to be removed from Roll and certificate cancelled.

*Case 6.*—Mary Ann George, No. 2,067, was charged with having been convicted of felony at the Worcester Police Court, in January, 1905, of having been convicted in the same Court in October, 1905, for having failed to notify her intention to practice to the Local Supervising Authority, on which occasion she was fined £1. Of not observing the rules as to carrying appliances and antiseptics, and with not keeping a register. Mrs. George's letter was read, in which she stated she did not intend to practise again as a midwife.

*Decision.*—Name to be removed and certificate cancelled.

Mr. Parker Young drew attention to the fact that within two months of the first conviction Mrs. George's good moral character had been testified to by the Rev. E. Richings, who knew that she had been convicted of felony, on the strength of which certificate she was placed on the Roll.

It was unanimously agreed to place the facts before the Public Prosecutor, as the Midwives Act provides that "any person wilfully making or causing to be made any falsification in any matter relating to the Roll of midwives shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and shall be liable to be imprisoned with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding twelve months."

An interesting point raised by Mr. Fordham in relation to the case of Mrs. Jacklin was whether the Board could deal with a midwife who was drunk in her own house. Dr. Champneys was strongly of opinion that they should do so. A midwife on holiday might be drunk for her whole holiday, but so long as she was at work she was always on duty. Mr. Fordham inquired whether the same rule applied to medical men, and was informed it did not.

Miss Wilson said she thought it was an unsatisfactory procedure on the part of a Local Supervising Authority to appoint an inspector of midwives who was not a midwife. Miss Bowers had given her evidence extremely well, but the principle was wrong.

Another point raised by the Chairman was whether the Board ought not to pay the expenses of the accused who could not afford to appear in their own defence. It was decided to lay the matter before the Privy Council in connection with the revision of the rules.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Management of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, it was announced through a letter from Dr. McKisack that the trustees of the late Mr. Henry Matier had signified their intention of making over to the hospital the sum of £5,000. The Board received the news with the liveliest satisfaction, and passed a cordial vote of thanks to the trustees for their most generous donation.

## Professional Review.

### MATERIA MEDICA FOR NURSES.

It is not common for nurses during their hospital training in this country to receive systematic teaching in the derivation and action of drugs. What they know on this subject they, as a rule, "pick up" in the wards, the more keen amongst them supplementing this knowledge by that attained in undirected study. Nevertheless, an elementary knowledge of *Materia Medica* is of considerable importance to every nurse, and it is to be hoped that the day will come when definite instruction in this subject is given to nurses in every training school.

As a text-book on this subject for nurses, we know of none to compare with that compiled by Miss Lavinia L. Dock, Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, the second edition of which has been published by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's, 24, Bedford Street, Strand, London, W.C. It has been revised in conformity to the "British Pharmacopœia," and contains all that a nurse need know on this subject clearly and lucidly arranged.

The first part deals with the Inorganic *Materia Medica*, including the Alkalies and Alkaline Earths, the Metals, non-Metallic Elements, Inorganic Acids, Organic Acids, and the Carbon Compounds. The second part deals with the Organic *Materia Medica*, including the Vegetable Kingdom, and the Animal Kingdom. There is also a list of new drugs, alphabetically arranged, of newer remedies and preparations prepared for the second English edition, as well as notes on Serum Therapy, and Radiology, all of which will be found most useful.

In her introduction Miss Dock defines the word medicine in its broad meaning as "the science and art of healing and curing the sick," and in its restricted sense as "a drug used for the cure or relief of disease." "*Materia Medica*" covers the list and history of such substances.

The classification of drugs is considered from three standpoints:—

1. Their source or derivation.
2. Their physiological actions.
3. Their ultimate forms in appearance as prepared in the pharmacy by definite standard formulæ for administration.

Miss Dock proceeds to show that both the organic and inorganic worlds furnish material useful for medicine, the animal and vegetable kingdoms both being represented, though the animal kingdom furnishes only a small quota. The drugs of vegetable origin are by far the most numerous, and are obtained from green and flowering plants, both fresh and dry, fungi and lichens.

Miss Dock draws attention to the complex nature of plants; and to the fact that one drug may contain more than one active alkaloid. One medicine may have several actions, and practically it is found that their effects are as scales of varying gradation, and run insensibly into one another. The same drug that in small doses acts as a beneficent agent may in large ones be an overwhelming poison. One given to quiet the nervous system may also constipate; another given for purgation may seriously reduce the

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