

"Twentieth Century Matron," recently read in London before the Matrons' Council, and Fraulein Karll has asked her permission, which has been readily granted, to have it translated into German for publication in the official organ of the German Nurses' Association.

We have to thank our German sisters for an advance proof of their new nursing paper, *Unterm Lazaruskreuz*, issued in Berlin last week, and to congratulate them most heartily upon its imposing appearance. Its motto, *Ich Dien*, has the right ring about it. We shall have pleasure in reviewing it at length later on.

### Special General Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Nurses.

We hope members of the S.R.S. will take notice that a Special General Meeting will be held on January 19th, at 20, Hanover Square, London, W., at 3 p.m., "to Consider the Re-drafted Bill of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses." Several important new Clauses and Alterations will be recommended, and it is hoped every member who can possibly do so will show her interest in this important matter by being present.

### Trained Nurses Denied Direct Representation in the R.B.N.A. Bill.

The Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association have re-drafted their Bill for the State Registration of Nurses, and have swept away *Six* of the *Seven* Direct Representatives of the Nurses, and propose that the 80,000 nurses in the United Kingdom shall have *One* representative only on a Board consisting of fourteen members. It is proposed to give the General Medical Council three nominated representatives, the rest of the Board being composed of Matrons and medical men.

We hope this exceedingly unjust Bill, as drafted, will never be presented to Parliament. Should it become law it would deprive trained nurses throughout the United Kingdom of all personal and professional responsibility.

One representative out of fourteen! Where do Scottish and Irish nurses come in? No-where!

### Midwifery Matters.

#### THE CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

In the midwifery world the past year has been remarkable for the fact that for the first time the name and title of midwife are now protected by law. Anyone not certified under the Midwives Act who henceforth uses the name of midwife brings herself within the arm of the law and is liable to a fine not exceeding £5. In another five years' time no one who is not on the Midwives' Roll will be allowed to habitually and for gain attend women in childbirth, even if she does not call herself a midwife. Thus the untrained attendant will be in time eliminated, and the midwifery practice in England and Wales will be either in the hands of medical practitioners or of certified midwives, a fact which should considerably diminish the present high rate of mortality from puerperal fever.

We should like to urge all nurses to obtain experience, either as midwives or as maternity nurses. No nurse can consider herself thoroughly trained who cannot render skilled help throughout the course of a normal labour, and for this an ordinary hospital training in no way qualifies her. As to what certificate she shall obtain this depends upon the work she proposes to take up. If she intends to work amongst the poor, without doubt she should obtain the certificate of the Central Midwives' Board, if she contemplates working as a private nurse amongst the upper classes, many medical practitioners hesitate to introduce to their patients a nurse who may utilise the opportunity thus afforded, to secure the case for herself as an independent midwife on the next occasion, therefore let her obtain a certificate in maternity nursing.

#### THE ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING THE TRAINING OF MIDWIVES.

Miss Gill, the Secretary of the Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives, Dacre House, Dean Farrar Street, Westminster, informs us that the work of the Association, has made steady progress during the year. Twenty-four midwives have been in training, nine of whom are now preparing for the examination of the Central Midwives' Board in February next. Midwives trained by the Association are now at work in the Counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Lancashire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Pembroke-shire, Sussex, and Yorkshire. The Association has assisted in the organisation of the Lectures to Practising Midwives, which have been given under the London County Council in 18 centres during the year. Speakers have been sent to meetings held in various parts of the country to discuss the Midwives Act and its requirements, and much correspondence has taken place with local authorities. The Association has specially urged that powers under the Act should be retained by County Councils and not delegated to District Councils. The Annual Meeting of the Association will be held in February next, and a large meeting will be held in March at 24, Park Lane, by kind permission of Lady Brassey.

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