

Broadwood was of opinion her Association could find posts for them.

A lady in the audience also stated that if they had general training she could find employment for one at the present moment at a salary upon which she could live. It appeared, upon inquiry, that the amount of this salary was £60 per annum. Miss Ritchie of the Clapham Maternity Home, informed the speaker this was not sufficient, which seemed to occasion considerable surprise.

Mrs. Wallace Bruce said that the Association deprecated its midwives combining general nursing with midwifery work.

Miss Broadwood said she never found any harm come of it.

The Chairman had the sympathy of many of the audience when he said that he hoped the payment of the midwives would be increased, and that the present movement, for making the midwives which it trained Associates of the Society, might lead to industrial organisation, and to the establishment of a minimum fee under which midwives would not work.

Dr. Reid, County Medical Officer for Staffordshire, then gave an interesting account of the working of the Act, in the course of which he said its effect was at first, and still is, rather injurious. Existing midwives had their certificates framed and hung up in their cottages as proof of their superiority, and they really began to think that by virtue of that piece of paper they were expert midwives, and undertook duties which previously they dare not have done.

In Staffordshire out of 597 certified midwives only 26 were trained nurses, and the stamp of women might be estimated by the fact that 39 per cent. could not either read or sign their own names, while many others could only write very indifferently.

The Report of Dr. Gregg, inspector of midwives, which he quoted, was instructive as to the way in which they spent their spare time. Killing pigs was, the report stated, a common practice amongst the Staffordshire midwives. The more she saw of their work the less she had to say in praise of them. If she had Sarah Gamp under her inspection she should consider her a very superior midwife.

Dr. Reid hopes that by means of grants from the Education Department of the County Council he may within the next five years be able to provide the rural districts of Staffordshire with skilled midwives.

At the conclusion of the meeting a hospitable invitation to tea was extended to all present.

It should be noted that there are two distinct societies concerned in the training of midwives, the Association which held its Annual Meeting last Friday, the object of which is "to promote the training and supply of midwives to meet the requirements of the Midwives' Act of 1902," and the Rural Midwives' Association, of which Mrs. Heywood Johnstone is Chairman of the Executive Committee, the object of which is "to train and supply midwives for rural and provincial districts."

The Duchess of Connaught will open an Elizabethan fête in Lincoln's Inn Hall and grounds in aid of the King's College Hospital Removal Fund on May 23rd.

New Preparations, Inventions, &c.

NURSES' OUTFITS AT MESSRS. BROOKS & CO.

Many nurses will be glad to have their attention directed to the facilities afforded by Messrs. Brooks & Co., 143, Borough High Street, London Bridge (near Guy's Hospital and Southwark Cathedral) for obtaining uniform and other necessaries at reasonable prices. The firm has been established for nearly 100 years, and makes a specialty of supplying articles of a good quality at a moderate price, which will stand the test of hard wear. They issue a special illustrated nurses' catalogue, and send parcels, to the value of 20s. and over, carriage paid to any station in the United Kingdom. Goods are also sent on approval if customers are known, or on receipt of a reference or deposit.

A useful cloak for summer wear is the Sandringham. It is made in black and navy cravenette, with a velvet collar, it buttons down the front and has sleeves close fitting at the wrist. The price is 18s. 11d., or in a better quality, which is also obtainable in green and grey, 23s. 9d.

Another useful cloak is the Osborne. It is gathered on the shoulders, and falls straight down, buttoning down the front and with openings for the arms, price 17s. 11d. and 21s. 9d.

Nurses' washing dresses are made in a variety of materials from 9s. 6d. to 15s. 6d., and Matrons' dresses in all wool materials, coatings, or alpaca from 26s. 6d. to 35s. Aprons, caps, and bonnets are also supplied, indeed, everything that a nurse can need in the way of uniform.

"BACTOX," THE NEW DISINFECTANT.

At the Annual General Meeting (twenty-eighth in number) of the "Sanitas" Company, Limited, held at Locksley Street, Limehouse, London, E., on Thursday, in last week, the Chairman (Mr. C. T. Kingzett, F.I.C., F.C.S.), remarked upon the steady growth of "Sanitas" in public favour. While it was still regarded, from an all-round point of view, as the standard disinfectant, it was necessary for the Company to meet competition from all sides. Hence, as the result of long investigation in their laboratories, the Company was about to introduce a new disinfectant to be known as "Bactox," which would favourably compare with the strongest known bactericides hitherto available. It was described as a neutral non-corrosive, saponaceous preparation, and having regard to its great germicidal strength and price would be found cheaper in use and as strong as, or stronger, than any competing article on the market, and devoid of all objectionable qualities.

The Pharmacy Acts Amendment Bill, introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. R. Winfrey, is promoted by the Pharmaceutical Society to remedy certain abuses of the law relative to the sale of poisons. The abuses arise from the fact that a person with no qualification as a chemist may, by converting himself into a "one man" limited company, be exempt from the regulations made in the public interest for the storage and sale of poisons.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)