

but we believe this is a solitary instance, and if lying-in cases are received in wards which form part of the main building of the infirmary the Board is right in making very searching enquiries into the arrangements, and also in ascertaining that the nurses are separated from those in the general wards, in the Home, and are not interchanged in their work, before giving their official sanction to the recognition of such institutions as training schools. Given adequate arrangements, the poor law infirmaries should form a very valuable addition to the available training ground for midwives, which is at present quite inadequate.

The editors of the *Midwives' Record* which made its first appearance last month, state in the current issue that they "feel that the midwives who asked for a paper 'all for themselves,' were well justified in their demand. The circulation of the first issue of the journal has been beyond all expectations." The current issue contains news of the Certified Midwives Total Abstinence League; and articles of practical interest to midwives. A prize of 2s. 6d. is offered this month to the midwife who suggests the best kind of mattress and bed-clothes for a baby's crib. The one offered last month for the best dress for a midwife has been awarded to Mrs. Argent, of Featherstone Castle, Carlisle. The *Midwives' Record* appears to have a useful future before it, and we wish it success.

By the kind permission of the Bishop of London, the Annual Meeting of the Council for the Promotion of the Higher Training of Midwives took place at London House, on Wednesday, at 3.30 p.m. Her Royal Highness Princess Christian was in the chair, and the principal speakers were Miss Alice Gregory, Mr. W. Crooks, M.P., and Dr. Cullingworth.

Miss Gregory opened the meeting, by giving a *résumé* of the effect of the Midwives' Act, both in the country and in town, in both cases proving a shortage of trained midwives, thus for the moment accentuating instead of mitigating the evil. She said, this shortage must be met before the time of grace was over. The County Council was doing something towards dealing with it by giving twelve annual scholarships. The Woolwich Training Home was doing something to help, and one or two hospitals were opening maternity blocks for the training of nurses. But all these efforts were small and insufficient to meet the need. This Council was meeting to form a school for the higher training of nurses who were to be gentlewomen of the highest mental capabilities—the training to cover a period of two years.

Mr. Crooks, as Labour Member, then spoke touchingly from the labour man's point of view, explaining how hard it was for a labouring man at those times of anxiety for his wife, of the expense to himself, and of the worry the uneducated, unskilled midwife was in his home at such times. He appealed to ladies who had nothing to do to take up this work and to those who had money to give it to enable them to realise their scheme. Dr. Cullingworth then spoke highly of the home at Woolwich, and urged the scheme of a maternity hospital.

## Our Foreign Letter.

FROM THE UNITED STATES.

It is a long time that that all-absorbing "Book"\* has held its two collaborators spell-bound, but now the



summer vacation is coming, Miss Nutting goes off soon for a rest, I am soon to open our country farm, and we have packed up the book for

the present with the winter things, to be taken out later with the blankets and woollen clothes. Why isn't it done? Well, it would be, if all we had to do was to write a book, but the trouble is we have to read so many of other peoples!

I feel like writing you a long-spun yarn, to tell you all our woes and troubles, but hardly know where to begin. Perhaps you would rather hear something cheerful and pleasant? The troubles are all heralded in the daily papers, but few of the comforting aspects of life ever get into them. One must blush nowadays to be an American, and to prate glibly of cheerful things almost seems as if one did not estimate properly all the enormously sobering revelations and occurrences in our national existence. The bewildering succession of exposures of our corporations dishonesty, soulless greed, and immense ramified power is positively stupefying, giving one the feeling of receiving violent blows on the head, and one wonders whether the lightning ought not to fall on us all. Pessimism is said to be a sign of advancing age. So one dares not give way to it, and beside that, through all the wreck of moral standards one feels the increasing struggle for a true democracy, a social order that will end selfish monopoly with its stupidities and make room for more intelligent social arrangements.

You are striding along that way now, aren't you, with your splendid new Parliament. I hope you will get the suffrage, and that the workers will get their old-age pensions, and the children their meals and their education. It would be a glorious example for us. Just think that we are repeating on a gigantic scale the inexpressibly pitiful conditions of child-slavery that England had a hundred years ago, and that American women, the mothers of these children, are tied in chains of legal disability in all but four of our great States, helpless to protect them against the human beasts of prey who drive them into long hours of labour to pile up wealth—for whom? Not for themselves, poor, stunted, pathetic little beings.

Is it not inconceivable that so many thousands of women are still sitting placidly by, mere lumps of comfortable inanity, without knowledge or sympathy, professing good little conventional precepts of behaviour, while thousands of others, decked in all the sumptuous apparel of the multi-millionaire, go through their lives without showing the vestige of a warm and generous heart?

\*The History of Nursing.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)