

money in advertising Registration, and making those who otherwise might never have heard of it inquire as to its meaning and its necessity. But what we contend is that without a little "feminine impetuosity" such a great advance would never have been made at all. In fact, we would go further and point out the undeniable fact that the proposition, publicly made last year by Dr. Matthews Duncan, Dr. Priestley, and others, that the Association should undertake the work of Registering Midwives, really galvanised the Midwives' Club into new life, and thus caused the introduction of their Bill this Session into Parliament. So while we congratulate—and very warmly congratulate—the Club upon its new development, we feel that the Association which supplied the impetus to its increased vigour is also deserving of the highest praise.

We shall have a few words to say, when space permits, on one or two matters connected with the Midwives' Institute and its constitution. But at present we propose to devote what consideration we can give to the subject, and especially to the details, of the Bill, and trust that several important alterations will be made in the drafting of the clauses, that the Bill thus amended will be introduced again next year, and that better progress will then be made with the measure.

In the first place, then, we would urge upon the Midwives' Institute the importance of bestirring itself in the direction of not only arousing more public interest in their proposals, but also of allaying the very natural apprehensions, which, to our knowledge, are being expressed by Medical practitioners all over the country, as to the scope of their measure and its probable effects upon themselves. This has been evidenced by various letters to medical journals in England and Scotland, one of the strongest of which lately appeared from the pen of Dr. Rentoul, who is well-known as an ardent reformer, and whose antagonism to the Bill therefore became all the more noticeable. Many Doctors, while deploring the evils which are now wrought by ignorant women practising as Midwives, point out that any reform requires to be most carefully undertaken and most strictly carried out. Otherwise, they say—and as we shall show, quite justly—that the remedy will be vastly worse than the disease. And besides this objection from the point of view of public safety, the Doctors in country districts, whose work largely consists of midwifery, point out that a Registered Midwife would really become their competitor in this department, and therefore, as a matter of self-interest, they urge that they cannot be expected to welcome her advent. But if the law does make her a competitor and give her a legal status equal to that of a Medical man, for the

public sake as well as for their own they demand that, as a measure of simple right and justice, such a woman shall have had at least the same education as they have had, and the same training for the work, and gained the same skill and experience which they were obliged by law to acquire before they received their qualification to practise midwifery.

As we shall show later on, the provisions at present embodied in the Bill certainly give ground for the criticism and complaints which have been aroused amongst Medical men. Before the Bill can have any chance of passing into law all these objections must be satisfactorily overcome; because we must point out that the chief supporters which the Bill found in the House of Commons this year were Medical members, and these will be naturally sensitive to the opinions which have been expressed by their professional brethren upon the subject since their attention was drawn to the matter by the Parliamentary proceedings. For it came, we know, as a great surprise to many that such a Bill was even drafted, because for some reason there has been maintained a studied silence upon the matter by those who it might have been expected would have endeavoured to stimulate Parliamentary action by expressions of public opinion. At any rate, on future occasions we should strongly advise the advocates of the Bill to obtain support for their proposed legislation from both the Press and the public.

There is one matter upon which we should be glad if some definite information was forthcoming. It is well known now that with "feminine impetuosity" the British Nurses' Association having commenced the work has carried it through, and has commenced to register Nurses under certain legal conditions, and that its scheme has already achieved a great measure of success. Everyone recognises that the publication of the first volume of the Register will immeasurably advance the development of the system and strengthen the hands of the Association in appealing for legal sanction and powers to extend the work. But what has the Association done, or what does it propose to do, in the case of Midwives? It was publicly requested, nearly a year ago, to undertake their Registration also. What decision has been arrived at on this important matter?

MEN's proper business in this world falls mainly into three divisions: first, to know themselves and the existing state of things they have to do with; secondly, to be happy in themselves and in the existing state of things; thirdly, to mend themselves and the existing state of things, as far as either are marred or mendable.

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