

For the safety of the public it is imperative that so-called nursing homes shall be brought under the control of the law, and not only "registered" but inspected. The present lack of control and chaotic condition of the nursing profession permit of every species of fraud and intimidation where sick people are concerned.

MIDWIVES AND THE DEAD.

One would imagine that the most ignorant midwife would realise the danger of handling the dead—especially the corpse of a person who had died from an infectious disease.

Charlotte Bradford, a registered midwife, was recently censured by the Brighton coroner (Mr. Bush) at an inquest at the Brighton Workhouse. On July 16th the midwife was called to a case of a woman named Doreri. Three days later Doreri became seriously ill, and was taken to the workhouse infirmary, where she died from puerperal septicæmia. Dr. Douglas M. Ross, medical officer of the workhouse, said that the condition of the deceased was accounted for by the fact that on July 13th, three days prior to having been called to the case of Doreri, the midwife had laid out a child who had died from erysipelas. Dr. Ross said that he had never known so many cases of puerperal fever as had come under his notice at the workhouse within the last year or two. In each case a midwife had attended. It was most serious for midwives to lay out dead bodies. The Coroner said that Mrs. Bradford's conduct was most serious, especially as there had been a previous similar case, and no doubt representations would be made to the Midwives' Board in London. The Coroner added that he had ascertained that Mrs. Bradford was not an examined and certified nurse, but was registered because she was a midwife at the time of the passing of the Act.

Outside the Gates.

THE BRUTE FORCE PARTY AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The imprisoned Women Suffragists have found plenty of friends willing to fight their battles in Parliament since the last batch were incarcerated as common criminals for demanding political rights. It remained for Mr. MacNeill to touch on the most disgraceful part of their degradation. On Thursday in last week he read a letter in the House of Commons from one of the imprisoned ladies, who denied the accuracy of the statements as to the treatment of the prisoners, and after complaining of the state of the clothing wrote:—"Nothing has been said about the process of entering prison. We have all been stripped in the presence of wardresses, sometimes with inmates present, and searched as if we were convicted thieves. To most of us this is the worst we have to bear. It was for me. After that ordeal nothing else mattered." Did this lady of high culture and ability deserve that punishment? asked the indignant M.P. The Suffragists were quite willing to suffer for their ideal, but they should not be degraded.

It is just because women are awakening to the fact that without political power *their bodies are not their own* that they will suffer all things to make them so. Once a pure-minded woman realises this terrible fact, imprison her, strip her, rack her, but in spite of it all she will wrench herself free.

The Women's National Anti-Suffrage League has started on its hopeless career with a peeress for President, and Mrs. Humphrey Ward is its chief protagonist. The propaganda, printed on the finest cream-laid paper, and issued broadcast, is fundamentally unmoral. It seems almost incredible in these days that women can hold themselves in such supreme contempt, that they are prepared to advocate the continued degradation of their sex; and that they should enter the lists with "brute force" blazoned on their banner is even more incomprehensible. Brute force means polluted bodies and smirched souls, and the righteous instinct which animates the women who would be politically free must result in victory. In the meanwhile, all women who love honour and desire purity should come out and fight the "brute force" party by demanding political power, so that the lives of the poor and helpless may be made clean, and their own souls escape contamination and annihilation.

Verses.

Little did the infant dream
That all the treasures of the world were by:
And that himself was so the cream
And crown of all which round about did lie.
Yet thus it was: The Gem,
The Diadem,
The Ring enclosing all
That stood upon this earthly ball;
The heavenly Eye,
Much wider than the sky,
Wherein they all included were,
The glorious Soul that was the King
Made to possess them—did appear
A small and little thing!

—Centuries of Meditations, by
THOMAS TRAFERNE.

Book of the Week.

LEAVEN.*

"A Black and White Story," is Mr. Douglas Blackburn's own description of the book he entitles "Leaven," and it exactly sums it up. Of course, on the strength of that we are prepared to face disagreeables; no story that deals with the subject of white men and black can be entirely pretty reading when treated seriously, and "Leaven" is both a serious and a strong book.

It deals chiefly with two lives—those respectively of the young Kafir Bulalie, whom we first meet in his father's kraal, and David Hyslop, a new missionary sent to an outlying and very desolate

* By Douglas Blackburn.

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