

benediction of the pious founder of the hospital after whom it is named.

Is there any Nurses' Library which, so far, has not secured "A History of Nursing," by Miss L. L. Dock and Miss M. A. Nutting? If so, the omission should at once be rectified, for no Nurses' Library can be considered complete without these two volumes, and no nurse can possess knowledge which vitally concerns her, who is not well acquainted with their contents. Another invaluable book which should be possessed by every nurse is "Materia Medica for Nurses," by Miss L. L. Dock, which gives them just the information about drugs they need to have. Both books can be obtained from G. P. Putnam's Sons, 24, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C., the History price £1 1s., the Materia Medica price 3s. 6d.

An interesting correspondence, opened by Dr. Milligan, of Leekhampton, is proceeding in the *British Medical Journal* on Rural Nursing Associations. Dr. Milligan opened the ball by complaining that the nurses, who through these associations are ostensibly introduced to assist the medical practitioner and to work under his directions, in the interests of the sick poor, in many instances become serious competitors for minor medical and surgical practice. The "managing committee consists of a group of the usual well-meaning female busybodies, on which the local practitioner is not in any way represented, cases are sought for in all ranks of society, and touting is openly and avowedly practised." Patients are entreated to employ the nurse and midwife, and assured that if anything goes wrong the doctor who has previously attended them can be called in. In some cases "the nurse makes a friendly call on nearly every case under medical treatment, and the usual gossip ensues, with a criticism of the diagnosis and treatment not always to the advantage of the medical attendant. In fact, an active, unqualified practitioner has been introduced, backed up by a body of ladies, whose interest it is to make the thing a success."

Dr. Milligan's experience is confirmed by other practitioners, and, from their letters, the peril to both patients and doctors seems a real one. We think if these gentlemen inquired closely into the qualifications of the "nurses" of whom they complain, they would find that they are midwives, having a very elementary smattering of nursing, who are introduced by their patronesses through a so-called nursing association, in order that the medical profes-

sion may not be antagonised by the introduction of a midwife.

A well-attended farewell meeting to Nurse Shrimpton, who is leaving to take charge of a home for girls in New Road, Chatham, was held last week in St. Paul's Schoolroom, Sheerness, when the Rev. W. Noblet paid a high tribute to her for her work during the four years she has been in Sheerness, and, on behalf of the committee and friends of the Rescue and Preventive Society presented her with an afternoon tea cloth, a silver-plated teapot, sugar basin, and cream jug, and an afternoon tea service of wedgwood china. The girls have also presented Miss Shrimpton with silver sugar tongs and a case of silver apostle spoons. Nurse Shrimpton's departure is greatly regretted, as she has done a good work in Sheerness, and she will carry with her to her new work the hearty good wishes of many friends. She will be succeeded by Nurse Dugdale.

Dr. Jameson Johnstone addressed the Irish Nurses' Association on Tuesday on "Esperanto." What a blessing it would be at the forthcoming International Congress if the nurses of all nations could converse in it.

Miss Dickenson, lecturing on clothing before the Women's National Health Association in Dublin, spoke first of the garments of flesh which they had to wear for three score years and ten. Fresh air was the Jack-the-germ-killer. The things needed for the welfare of the body were air, food, warmth, activity, and cleanliness. The best general rule for cleanliness was that everything touching the skin should be washable.

At the recent meeting of the Glenties Guardians, Miss Sweeney, a nurse in the fever hospital, appeared before the Board and asked to be allowed half a dozen towels and a clock. She asserted that she had to "wipe the patients with an old shirt" (are we to understand that the same shirt went the round of the scarlet fever patients?), and she needed the clock in order to dispense the medicines properly. The Chairman asked the nurse if she considered it proper to attend before the Board when she was nursing scarlet fever patients, and she replied that she did, as she had washed and changed her clothes, and the patients were looked after by another nurse. She was requested to leave the Board Room, but subsequently both her very legitimate requests were conceded. We wonder if "cross-infections" occur in the Glenties Fever Hospital.

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