

the cervix has to be dilated to a considerable size before the ovum can pass. Within the first two months the pains of expulsion may not be very different from those of dysmenorrhœa. The later the stage of pregnancy the more the pains resemble those of labour at full term.

Treatment will depend on the extent of the hæmorrhage, the rate and strength of the pulse, and the condition of the patient.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

Miss E. Cockeram (Birmingham), Miss S. A. G. Lett (Exning), Miss M. Atkinson (Hawick), Miss E. Marshall (London), Miss S. A. Cross (King's Lynn), Miss M. Mills (Kintbury), Miss C. E. Rands (London), receive honourable mention.

Miss Cockeram, after describing the symptoms of threatened and inevitable abortion, writes: "In cases of tubal abortion the symptoms vary considerably; the patient after missing a period may go a week or two after her time, and then a slight hæmorrhagic discharge comes on, irregular rather than severe.

"The patient also complains of sharp pains in one or other iliac region, and has probably an attack of vomiting. This condition may go on for hours, days, or weeks until the gestation sac ruptures, when the pain would become very severe, accompanied by a sharp attack of vomiting, followed by all the symptoms of internal hæmorrhage and collapse—pallor, rapid, feeble pulse, and coldness of extremities; which must be counteracted as far as possible until the patient is relieved by operation."

Miss M. Atkinson defines the term "abortion" as "the expulsion of the foetus before it is viable, e.g., before it can live independently of its mother. The symptoms are chiefly hæmorrhage and pain. . . . When either of the symptoms occur alone hope of averting the abortion may be entertained. This condition is called 'threatened abortion.' Should both be present little hope of averting the abortion can be entertained."

Miss S. A. G. Lett writes: "The symptoms of abortion vary slightly according to the period of pregnancy in which the abortion occurs.

"In an abortion before the second month the symptoms are practically those of a delayed and profuse menstrual period, and at this time the ovum is so small that unless all discharges are very carefully examined it is not easy to determine whether the abortion is complete. After the beginning of the second month the symptoms are more definite."

Miss M. Mills points out that when abortion has once occurred it is likely to occur again, and some women have a strong tendency to this, and rarely go beyond a certain stage.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

Mention some talents, and how she should use them, that a nurse must cultivate if she wishes to be successful as a Sister of Wards.

LEAGUE NEWS.

GENERAL HOSPITAL BIRMINGHAM NURSES' LEAGUE.

The Twelfth General Meeting of the League was held on Saturday, November 11th, at the General Hospital, Birmingham, Miss Musson, President, in the chair. About 70 members and friends, including Mr. Howard Collins, the House Governor, were present.

Miss Musson said that three resolutions would be submitted to the meeting after an address on the State Registration of Nurses which Mrs. Bedford Fenwick had consented to give: one relating to the Nurses' Registration Bill; and two on the position of nurses in the National Insurance Bill.

Miss Musson welcomed and introduced Mrs. Fenwick, who gave a *résumé* of the Nurses' Registration question, from an educational and economic point of view, in which she emphasised the necessity for each nurse to realise her duty, not only to herself, but to the medical profession and to the public in her demand for defined and efficient training and education, and to the profession at large for just economic conditions in relation to it. No great body of workers in these days of competition could afford to accept disorganised standards of teaching and training, nor was it fair that the State should ignore their skilled work. Only by Act of Parliament could a sufficient standard be defined, and such a standard must be tested by independent examiners—and qualifications registered, by an expert Central Nursing Authority.

For a nurse to argue, so long as she was a wage-earner that she had no place in the body politic was untenable, because by her work she came into intimate touch with every member of it, and whether she liked it or not her position and work were being constantly legislated for, usually to her detriment. Mrs. Fenwick spoke of the Bankers' Act, the Employers' Liability Act, the Licensing Act of the London County Council, and the National Insurance Bill—all of which affected trained nurses. She then referred to the twenty-three years' hard work of organization which had been required before the co-operation of medical and nursing societies in England, Ireland, and Scotland had been possible, by the inauguration of the Central Committee for the State Registration of trained Nurses under the Chairmanship of Lord Amptill—a Committee which had drafted and accepted one Bill out of the three at one time before Parliament—and expressed the opinion that only time in the House of Commons

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)