

The results to the child of obstructed labour may be asphyxia, from pressure on the cord; moulding or dunting of the head; caput, or hæmatoma; fracture of the skull; and hæmorrhage, either between the bone and periosteum, on the membranes of the brain, or on the brain itself.

Obstruction is one of the most serious complications a midwife can have to deal with.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Miss Sarah Compton, Miss Ellen Smith, Miss E. Douglas, and Miss G. Mayhew.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

Enumerate the principal reasons for the decrease in infant mortality in recent years. How can trained nurses and midwives assist in securing a continual decrease?

THE NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

The Nurses' Registration Bill, influentially backed, will again in the coming session be introduced into Parliament by its staunch friend, the Right. Hon. R. C. Munro-Ferguson, M.P. It is to be hoped that in spite of the somewhat distracting constitutional legislation with which the Government proposes to deal, some time may be found to consider this measure, so long overdue, of justice to trained nurses, and protection for the sick.

English, Scottish, and Irish nurses must not get disheartened in this prolonged fight for just professional conditions, but show that finest of all characteristics—determined tenacity of purpose where conscience is concerned, in the face of every form of interested opposition to what they consider right. That is the touch of fire which licks up and demolishes every obstacle—sooner or later.

During the past year the nurses have lost by death no less than three friends who last year backed their Bill—Viscount Morpeth, who succeeded to the earldom of Carlisle, and formerly member for South Birmingham; Sir James Gibson, who represented the Eastern Division of Edinburgh; and Dr. Rainy, formerly member for Kilmarnock Burghs.

New friends are ready to help us, if only the Premier can be persuaded to give time for the second reading of the Bill. All nurses interested should either write or get voters to write to the members of constituencies in which they live. Don't make the excuse that *one* does not count; *one* often spells victory or failure.

TRAINED NURSES' PROTECTION COMMITTEE.

A Meeting of the Trained Nurses' Protection Committee was held at 431, Oxford Street, London, on Wednesday, January 31st, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in the chair.

Before considering the Resolution on the Agenda passed at the Public Meeting of Nurses held at Morley Hall on the 18th January, the Chairman gave a short *résumé* of the work done by the Committee since its formation in July, and reported with regret that the amendments supported by trained nurses had, owing to the closure in the House of Commons, received no consideration, so that no provision had been made in the National Insurance (Health) Act for "trained" nursing of insured persons during sickness as a benefit. The Chairman then reported the result of the Public Meeting held to discuss the advisability of trained (and in training) nurses forming a Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society, which had been ably presented in an Address by Miss Mollett, and which meeting had sent up a resolution to the Protection Committee, inviting it to draw up a scheme for such a Society. Miss Mollett's paper had been printed in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING on 27th January, so that all were familiar with her arguments. The Chairman also reported the opinions of matrons and nurses on the subject. She pointed out that the Royal National Pension Fund Managers had, immediately the Bill was presented to Parliament, taken active steps to form an affiliated society to manage nurses' business, and now practically demanded a monopoly; but as only a limited number of trained nurses were insured in that Fund, there was a strong feeling upon the part of many independent nurses that they would prefer to manage their own financial affairs, as the Act gave them the right to do. There was no reason why both societies should not be formed.

Miss Mollett then proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by Miss Barton:—

"That the Trained Nurses' Protection Committee be invited to draw up a Scheme for the formation of a Trained Nurses' Friendly Society."

Miss Mollett pointed out that nurses were a very unique class as affected by the Act; that their relations to the medical profession was such that in the past the most skilled medical attendance had been most generously given to nurses, and that the relations of

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