

fail, temporary compression of the aorta may save some lives. Compression by finger is generally not sufficient. Momburg's constriction is at present the best method of compressing the aorta; it is far superior to the other complicated apparatus.

Dr. A. Mayer (Tübingen) regarded compression of the aorta with the Momburg bag as serious to a diseased cardiac and vascular system. It highly strains even the healthy heart and vascular system, and it may become dangerous to it. If by an incorrect application of the bag the venous reflux should be entirely barred—the arterial afflux being, however, only partially interrupted—a sort of deadly hæmorrhage into the veins may take place. In case of considerable nephroptosis the disconnection of the kidney from the circulation caused by compression of the renal artery is to be feared, which may injure the kidney in its structure and its functions.

LECTURES TO MIDWIVES.

The Kensington Board of Guardians have referred the following letter, which they have received from the Central Midwives' Board, to the Infirmary Committee for consideration:—"The Central Midwives' Board has under consideration the question of centralising the instruction of pupil midwives, so far as possible. In the Board's opinion, while large classes are not suitable for teaching practical work, they are suitable for lecturing, and it ought to be possible, by collecting pupils into a few centres, to secure first-rate teaching for them, the collective fees probably making it worth the while of highly skilled persons to undertake the duty of lecturing. With this object the Board would be glad to know whether the Guardians of the Kensington Parish would be prepared to facilitate this arrangement by admitting outside pupils to the lectures given to their candidates for the C.M.B. Examination. If so, I shall be obliged if you will kindly state how many such pupils it would be possible to accommodate at the lectures, and what fees would be charged."

THE REGISTRATION AND SUPERVISION OF MIDWIVES IN BELFAST.

The *Lancet* reports that:—"On September 12th a large and representative deputation of Belfast medical men waited upon the public health committee of the city of Belfast in reference to the enforcement of the provisions of the Belfast Corporation Act, 1911, dealing with the certification, registration, and supervision of midwives practising in Belfast, and asked, as this was a matter of great importance not only to the public, but also to the members of the medical profession

—who had never been consulted as a body in the matter—that in the framing of rules and regulations under the Act dealing with women who had already received certificates from recognised examining bodies as to their proper practical training, as well as with those who did not possess such certificates, the medical profession should be given an opportunity of stating their views, and also should have official representation on the committee appointed to deal with the matter. Sir John Byers and Dr. H. J. Ritchie having, on behalf of the deputation, addressed the committee, a long discussion followed, after which the chairman said the matters brought before them would be fully and carefully considered. The discussion brought out the fact that originally there were clauses in the Bill to appoint a Belfast Midwives' Board on which the profession would have been fully represented; this was, however (in committee), deleted and other clauses substituted, under which the most varied authorities are given powers. Under these curious and apparently unforeseen conditions the profession in Belfast suggested to the corporation (through their local health committee) that some of their representatives should be associated with whatever sub-committee may be appointed to draw up regulations for the certification, registration, and supervision of midwives in Belfast."

How about the midwives themselves? The most important point in question is that they should be directly represented on any committee suggesting legislation for their professional control.

GLASGOW MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

Satisfactory progress is being made with the arrangements for the fancy dress ball which will be held in St. Andrew's Hall, on November 27th, in aid of the Glasgow Maternity and Women's Hospital. The ball will be under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Louise, and of many well-known ladies in the West of Scotland. An influential committee has charge of the arrangements, and in view of the urgent need of funds and of the claims of the Hospital, it is hoped that the public will give their support so as to ensure the success of the function.

A STRANGE FATALITY.

The Infanta Maria Teresa, only surviving sister of the King of Spain, died suddenly, from embolism, on Monday. Her fourth child was born on the 15th inst.; and she was about to rise for the first time since her confinement, when she fainted, and at once passed away. It is a strange coincidence that her elder sister, the Infanta Maria de las Mercedes, died in 1904, the day after she had given birth to the Infanta Isabella. The Queen Dowager Christina—a most devoted mother—is overpowered with grief.

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