

bachelor's" conduct, viz., that in the manager's bye-law No. 4 he sees only another phase of the general conspiracy of all rules and wonders against those who have promised themselves as bachelors to die, and who have not yet lived to be married.

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MR. EDITOR asks me to insert in this column a letter which appeared last week in the *Lancet*, and which was as follows:—

**THE MIDWIVES' REGISTRATION BILL.**

*To the Editor of "The Lancet."*

SIRS,— Might I, through your columns, direct the attention of the busy practitioner to the monstrous wrong which he has (for the time) so narrowly escaped. Could he but realise the mischief that might be done by this Bill, not alone to his profession, but to the public, I am satisfied that each unbiased member would put his shoulder to the wheel, and endeavour to avert legislation which is more than retrograde in its character. In trying to gauge this measure two important landmarks must be kept in view—namely, our duty towards our profession and our duty to the community. Were the former the only consideration we should say better to do away with registration altogether than have such an addendum to our Registers. For the sake of analogy let us ask how the clergymen would like every Scripture reader and Bible woman suddenly elevated to the Clergy List, or how would the lawyer treat an attempt to hoist every clerk and office boy to his level? Let us be just before being generous. Shall we allow a horde of obstetric Gamps to be tacked to our Register without a murmur? Is it not an attempt to raise some thousands of ignorant and pretentious women to a position which their wildest dreams never contemplated? After thirty years' experience of a large midwifery practice, in the course of which I have frequently come in contact with the class termed "experienced Midwives," I must say that, with few exceptions, I found them ignorant of the first principles of the art which they professed. Some of their mistakes must be so patent to Obstetricians that to mention them would be superfluous. Is this then the class who are to be registered Obstetricians? With regard to the public, instead of allowing them to be further gulled, let them rather be defended from such one-sided legislation; let them see that their newly-registered Obstetrician equipped with her certificate would only be a sham, and could not possess a tithe of the knowledge which is expected from her less fortunate (unregistered), although more highly educated, sister, the Medical and Surgical Nurse. The action of this Bill would thus present a strange anomaly. Where skilled knowledge and self-reliance are most needed, three months' training will suffice for the Midwife, whereas more than as many years are required for the Nurse, who, in the hour of trial, is not left to her own resources. Two questions I would ask those members of my profession who have the temerity to support this legislative abortion. One is, What interest have they in its success? and the other, Would they place their parturient wife, sister, or daughter in such hands? In conclusion, let me urge upon all the necessity of defending not alone our profession, but also the poor, from misdirected philanthropy. The poor have, in the present day, abundance of qualified medical charities, and well-paid parish officers who cannot refuse them assistance.—I am, Sirs, yours truly,  
 JAMES M. BENNETT, M.D.  
 Liverpool.

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To my mind this is a highly significant letter in several ways. It throws an important light on the views taken by independent medical men

upon the Registration of Nurses, and the Midwives' Bill. And I may say, without divulging any secret, that Mr. Editor has been surprised to find how strong a feeling is growing in favour of the former and against the latter measure. In consequence of the articles which he wrote some weeks ago on the question of the Midwives' Bill, he received from all parts of the country letters endorsing his views from medical men, many of whom incidentally mentioned their approval of the Registration of Nurses. There is, to judge from these and other information received, a very keen feeling being aroused as to the absolute danger to the public involved in the passage of this Bill into law. S. G.

**WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.**

**THE TAILORESS.**

It is many years ago now since Charles Kingsley wrote his famous novel, "Alton Locke," in which are described with so graphic a pen the miseries and oppressions of the working tailors and the evil of the sweating system which prevails in this trade. But although a new generation has arisen since the words were penned, and although the able hand of the writer is now stilled in death, the book could as well have been written yesterday, for it is an exact description of life in the world of tailors now. Only—for evil never stays the same any more than good, but must get either worse or better—things are if anything worse than ever, save that on the whole the laws of sanitation and health are better cared for, and so the rooms where the men and women work ploddingly, patiently, at a wage which can obtain for them only the barest necessities, are therefore better ventilated than they used to be. Men and women, I write wittingly, for tailoresses have increased very much since fifty years ago, and there are now thousands of women workers in the trade, and, as usual when woman's labour is brought into the market, has tended to lower the already small rate of wage. I obtained several particulars the other day "of how tailoresses work" from one of themselves, one employed in a very large place of business. She is a very good hand; what of those who are not, I wonder? But even here it is not that the work is so badly paid at the time, but its irregularity, which induces so much hardship. Sometimes in the slack season these poor tailoresses can only get one day's work a week, and therefore make but two shillings and sixpence per week. Indeed, so often are they without employment that it is calculated that they only work about six months in the year. The

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