

should be reported to the Midwives' Board—or she is not, and the innocent midwife she personates and professes to be, should be protected from the fraudulent misrepresentation of "Nurse Betty."

Certified midwives have a right to protection under the Act.

Thus, it is clearly the duty of the Central Midwives' Board to clear up this mystery.

As for the gross abuse of nursing uniform and the discredit suffered by the profession, from association in the public mind with those engaged in pandering to vice, and in ruining the bodies and souls of women—there is, at present, no redress; and there will be none until trained nursing is organized and protected by Act of Parliament, and registered nurses have power to maintain their own ethical standards.

DOCTOR AND MIDWIFE.

The Irish Local Government Board have now communicated to the Mullingar Board of Guardians their decision on the report of their medical officer, Dr. Browne, who recently held an enquiry on oath, into the charges preferred by Dr. William Joseph Fox, Medical Officer of the Milltown Dispensary District, against the dispensary midwife, Mrs. Mary Oulahan, and the counter charges preferred by her against Dr. Fox. We published an account of the evidence taken at the time of the enquiry, and are not surprised that the Local Government Board have requested the Guardians "to administer a severe censure to Dr. Fox on account of the hostile attitude he has taken up towards Mrs. Oulahan, and inform him that he has no option but to avail himself of her services in dispensary midwifery cases, if he wishes to retain his position as Medical Officer." The charges made by Mrs. Oulahan against Dr. Fox "that he has prejudice against her, and that he refused to attend dispensary midwifery cases with her as midwife," were proved to the satisfaction of the Local Government Board.

On the other hand the charges made by Dr. Fox against Mrs. Oulahan were that she had (1) demanded and accepted money payments for her services in dispensary midwifery cases, (2) disobeyed his orders and acted contrary to his instructions (3) obstructed him in the discharge of his duties as medical officer, and (4) been unsatisfactory in the discharge of her duties, further that she was too old for her office, and that her services were not availed of to the full extent by the poor in confinement cases.

The Local Government Board considered charge one proved in certain instances, in the others she was exonerated.

The Board pointed out that Mrs. Oulahan rendered herself subject to dismissal by accepting fees from dispensary patients. In view, however, of all the facts disclosed at the enquiry they were disposed to take a lenient view, and asked the Guardians to censure the midwife and warn her

that if she again transgressed very serious notice would be taken of her conduct.

The Guardians, in carrying out the instructions of the Local Government Board warned the Medical Officer and the midwife that they must work in harmony or they would be called upon to resign.

MICROBIOLOGICAL TREATMENT OF GONORRHETIC INFECTION.

The Paris correspondent of *The Times* writes, October 6th:—

"At this afternoon's sitting of the Academy of Science Dr. Laveran, one of the most eminent French scientists, read an important communication from Dr. Charles Nicolle, Director of the Pasteur Institute at Tunis in which he announced that as a result of over a year's continuous work M. Nicolle had succeeded in solving the problem of microbiological treatment of gonorrhetic infection. For the present Dr. Nicolle desires to keep secret the manner in which the vaccine is prepared. He and his collaborator, Dr. Blaizot, have treated over 200 cases at the Tunis Pasteur Institute during the past year, without a single failure. Dr. Laveran states that the treatment consists of three or four subcutaneous or intravenous injections given at intervals of two or three days. Chronic cases are cured after four injections, and in acute cases a definite cure takes a fortnight. The most striking effect of the treatment is obtained in cases of purulent ophthalmia in newborn children, which is the cause of much blindness, a single injection being sufficient to bring about a cure. The treatment has no undesirable after-effects.

"Dr. Nicolle states that when he returns to Tunis, in about a week's time, he will be able to supply doctors with whatever quantities of the vaccine they may require."

FRAUDULENT MATERNITY CERTIFICATES.

The Australian correspondent of the *Lancet* recently reported a case brought by the Crown against a medical man and two nurses for having conspired to furnish false information in relation to the maternity bonus claims that had been occupying the criminal court in Melbourne for some days. The case for the Crown disclosed that the medical man attended cases of midwifery at a private hospital managed by the women, and the fees were divided on a commission basis. Claims for the bonus were made on births, and it was alleged that some of these were fictitious. For the defence the medical man said that he had no intention of defrauding the Revenue, but being tired he one day signed a number of forms in blank, leaving them to be filled by one of the other defendants. The jury returned a verdict of "Guilty" against the two women, who were sentenced to twelve months' hard labour and a fine of £100. The medical man was acquitted.

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