

sake of the training schools, and of the future careers of midwives. The three kingdoms are too small, and too closely associated, for any other course to be possible.

In the first place many candidates who might desire to train in a Scottish Maternity Hospital if they could take their examination in the same country, will, under present conditions, prefer to train in England. It is a distinct hardship to a Scottish midwife that to pass the examination of the Central Midwives Board she must cross the border instead of attending at a convenient centre in her own country. Yet the Board, having no jurisdiction outside England and Wales, cannot organize centres beyond their limits. Next, if a midwife does not qualify for admission to the Midwives' Roll by passing the examination of the Board, she may not practise as a midwife within its jurisdiction. As midwives frequently migrate from Scotland and Ireland to this country this is again a hardship.

We hope that whenever Midwives Bills are passed for Scotland and Ireland, a more adequate period of training will be enforced than the three months which is all that is necessary in this country.

The curriculum defined by the Board is quite good, but the average pupil—and certainly the one who has had no previous training as a nurse—cannot properly assimilate all that is required of her in so short a period.

In regard to thoroughness of education Scotland is certainly in advance of England, and we may hope that it will enforce an adequate period, as well as curriculum, of training.

Not only would this be in the interests of Scottish training, but it would have the best possible effect in this country, for reciprocity between the three countries will certainly be necessary, and reciprocity must be based upon equality of standards.

LECTURES ON MILK.

The Course of six Lectures on Milk at the South Western Polytechnic Institute, Manresa Road, Chelsea, given by Professor A. Harden, D.Sc., F.R.S., and beginning on Thursday, February 5th at 7.30 p.m., should prove of much value. The subjects include "The Chief Properties of Milk," "Bacteria in Milk," "Changes Produced in Milk by Bacteria," "Spread of Disease by Milk," and "Preventive Measures." A practical class will be held immediately after the lecture, the work of which will include simple methods of ascertaining the composition of milk, the detection of Impurities and Preservatives in milk, and the Bacteriology of Milk. Fee for the course, 2s. 6d. For the past five years similar courses have proved most successful.

A PROBLEM.

It was a poor room enough, bare of all save actual necessities. That outward sign of comparative affluence, the combined parlour and bedroom, was not even suggested. The highly polished chest of drawers, every available inch of which would be filled with glass and china, was absent. No framed "photos" of paternal or maternal grandparents beamed from the walls. No family Bible reposed in dignified disuse upon a crochet mat. Small as the room was, it was possible to move about it with ease, for the articles in it were few.

The lack of the chief piece of furniture also necessitated the absence of the "bottom drawer," the stocking of which is the pride of every self-respecting mother expectant. Of course, if one hasn't a "bottom drawer," it is obviously useless to endeavour to fill it.

The last arrival of a long family lay stark and red on the midwife's lap. Its middle-aged mother, from the shabby bed, watched its ablutions with tragic eyes. The lady from downstairs was much in evidence, and was tasting the unusual joy of making up a fire with coals she had not to pay for. She paused now and again in her bustling ministrations to regard the infant with that insatiable maternal interest, which seems to be the heritage of the very poor. "Bless 'is 'eart, 'oo could 'urt 'em, Gawd love 'em. If you'll give me the 'apence, my dear, I'll fetch some milk and make you a drop of grool."

The workworn hand of the woman on the bed felt beneath the doubtful pillow, and produced an old purse—a sorry object in itself. "'Ere yer are," she says tonelessly, "and that leaves me tuppence for the rest of the week."

"No fear, my dear, it don't," says the lady from downstairs, "you 'ave to 'ave a pennorth of castor oil."

The mother of nine sighs, and defends herself against the suspicion of mismanagement. "My sweet'eart ain't done nothing to speak of lately," she says, "but 'e brought 'ome a few 'apence Saturday. I 'ad nigglin' pains, so I give the money to young Joe, and told 'im what to fetch in for Sunday's dinner. A big boy meets him. 'Whatcher got in yer 'and?' 'e says. Young Joe, childlike, shows 'im, an' 'e snatch the money and makes off. So we didn't have no Sunday dinner neither." She heaved another sigh. "Well, man proposes and Gawd disposes."

The midwife finished dressing the baby and succeeded in making it look wonderfully

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