

ago her first baby was born dead, and she had to come again to hospital as the bone disease had become worse. Of late she had not come as often to hospital, as she did not like to leave her husband, but two or three times I went out to her village, six miles away, to see her. Last time I found she was again pregnant, and I explained carefully to her that she must come in to hospital at the seven months, so that there might be a chance of a living baby being brought away. She understood it all, for she was a very bright, clever girl. Lately I went on a six weeks' holiday, and on my return I began to wonder about Sadozi, so drove out to her village. When I reached the house, I called out to a woman near by, asking for Sadozi. The woman replied, "She is dead"; and then other women soon collected in the little lane, and the uncle and husband were fetched, too, and they told me what had happened. About a month ago labour pains had set in at full term (previous to this Sadozi had told her husband I wanted her to go to hospital at seven months, but he himself was ill and could not bring her, so they had waited on). After two days, Sadozi asked them to send for me, and the uncle went to the hospital to fetch me. The doctor in charge asked him to bring Sadozi in, knowing the difficulties of operating in a mud-hut far from help. The uncle agreed and went back to the village, but again they sent in a messenger, saying she was too ill to be moved; would the doctor come out, for she screamed, even if touched—evidently the bone disease had become very much worse. By some mistake the doctor did not understand the message or the circumstances, nor did she know where exactly the girl lived, never having been to the village—so no arrangement was made about going out. The messenger returned to the house, and when Sadozi heard that I was away and no help was forthcoming, she wept and wept and said, "It is my fate." Can you not imagine the despair that would fall on her, when she had been building on the coming of her own doctor, who would, she thought, at once relieve her sufferings. And so in that little hut day after day passed and my little friend lay in anguish with none to help; at last on the seventh day rest came, and she died with the babe unborn. Can any of us realize what that poor child went through? I think not, for where would you find an Englishwoman who had been left to suffer more than at most one day without help being found for her; and my little Sadozi suffered for seven days the greatest agony that I suppose it is possible for a woman to undergo. And this, as I said before, is not an isolated case, but one that happens often in this land. Sometimes it is due to ignorance and fear of foreign methods; sometimes to distance from help; sometimes to there being only a man doctor available; but whatever the cause, these cases call for more help, more nurses, more doctors to overcome the ignorance, to make the distances between hospitals less, and to prevent this terrible suffering and sorrow.

E. S.

THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY CONFERENCE.

The Nursing and Midwifery Conference, this year held in the Hall of the Westminster Yeomanry, Elverton Street, Westminster, S.W., opened on Tuesday, April 28th. Miss Zoe Puxley, Superintendent of the Ranyard Nurses, was in the chair.

AFTERNOON SESSION. (APRIL 28th).

THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

The first question discussed was the State Registration of Nurses, and the chairman said that now that the question of the public health was exercising the minds of every one the discussion of this question was appropriate, for nursing was probably the most important aid in connection with the public health.

SIR VICTOR HORSLEY.

Sir Victor Horsley said that it was accepted on all hands that a system of registration was essential for all callings. His own profession so appreciated its advantages that it had been working for many years, through the British Medical Association, to help to obtain it for nurses. The profession of nursing would similarly be consolidated and strengthened through registration.

Sir Victor said he was astonished to be met again and again by the suggestion that nurses who were not fully qualified would be thrown out of employment if the Nurses Registration Bill were passed. That was, of course, ridiculous. The House of Commons, in enacting fresh legislation, always safeguarded the interests of those already at work. Then the authorities of some nursing schools were afraid that their interests might be prejudicially affected. On the contrary, their reputation would be enhanced if their pupils passed out high in the State Examinations. One thing was quite clear. It was no use to tell the public that an Official Directory of Nurses was enough. They needed the whole advantage to be obtained from registration for the consolidation of the profession.

An advantage of national consolidation, by registration, would be that nursing education would have a claim on the Board of Education for support. The medical profession had recently made a successful appeal, and nursing education might also be a direct charge on State Funds and not have to depend only on voluntary help.

Further, registration would bring to a proper point the social status of nursing, they would get a proper estimate of nursing as an occupation, proper regulation of nurses' hours of work, and proper remuneration for that work. Some people thought nurses were fairly well paid; Sir Victor said he thought the exact opposite. He was perfectly certain that a great deal of the shortage of nurses at present was due to that simple fact.

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