

Sir William Savory was unanimously elected a Life Governor, in recognition of his services to the Hospital. This is a step in the right direction, and it is the hope of many that his intimate knowledge of the working of the Institution could be utilised by his assistance being secured as a member of the House Committee.

THE Nurses of Guy's Hospital will, in future, have a monthly entertainment provided for them. These pleasant evenings, which have been organised by Mr. Mackeson, one of the students of the Hospital, were inaugurated by a musical sketch from Mr. Corney Grain, who is a prime favourite with the Nurses, as with all other people.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "Your 'Echo' concerning the carbolic poisoning case at the London Hospital is not at all severe, and you are quite right not to blame the Nurse, who, in all probability was a raw Probationer, quite unaccustomed to the responsibility of superintending a Ward during the visiting hour. From personal experience as a Probationer in the London Hospital, I was on more than one occasion sent into a strange Ward on visiting day, and left practically alone during that critical hour, as the Nurse of the Ward had been sent off for her two hours, 'as there was nothing to do,' which, being interpreted meant 'there will be no Doctors in the Ward during the visiting hour.' The Sister of the Ward, might or might not, walk through the Ward, and I have known many accidents (hushed up, of course) happen in consequence of this lack of trained supervision, indigestible food smuggled in and hidden in the bed, or lockers, and on more than one occasion actually given to patients, which might have caused their deaths."

THE election of direct representatives on the General Medical Council has brought the subject of Registration of Midwives again on the tapis. Dr. Hugh Woods writes to the *Lancet*:

Sirs,—Whether we be a small section of the profession or not, I protest against the statement by Mr. Wheelhouse, Sir W. Foster, and Dr. Glover, that we "resist such a minimum amount of training in Midwives as would enable them to know when to send for a Doctor." It is not so. We resist the granting of diplomas to Midwives recognising them as competent to attend all ordinary labours *without a Doctor*, and to judge when the case becomes too dangerous for their skill to conduct. We know that their training is never likely to make them fit for such responsibilities, nor their self-confidence likely to be small enough to avoid disaster. We would wish them to receive the highest possible training as *Nurses*. Already our certificated Midwives advertise in the evening papers the address at which they may be "privately consulted." When they get State diplomas (which God forbid!) they will know too much to send for a Doctor. We are continually called to confinements conducted by Midwives because the child is born dead,

or the mother injured, or in a fever, and in by far the greater number of cases our fee is then paid without difficulty. It is not poverty that prevents the engagement of a Doctor. Midwives claim to be fully competent to manage labour, and delude the ignorant. Will the possession of diplomas diminish their presumption?

THIS is a very significant letter. Midwives, pure and simple, are an anachronism. The charge and treatment of lying-in women should be in the hands of registered medical Practitioners (male or female); the *Nursing* in the hands of competent Registered Nurses; nothing less than this high standard should satisfy those who desire a reform of the present crying evils.

I HAVE much pleasure in announcing that Miss Emily Sanderson, M.R.B.N.A., has been declared the winner in the Twenty-Ninth Post-Card Examination, which had for its subject, "The best method of making a cold supper-dish out of 'left overs' from the previous meals of the day." I must congratulate this lady upon her success, as I believe this is the second time she has obtained a prize.

CAPTAIN BLOUNT, the well-known and most energetic Secretary of the Victoria Hospital for Children, informs me that, with the object of endowing a cot in the Victoria Hospital for Children, Chelsea, the members, associates, and graduates of "The Children's Salon" have taken Princes' Hall, Piccadilly, for the 13th and 14th of January, when they will be "At Home" to their friends. Only children will take part in the entertainment, particulars of which may be had by writing to Captain Blount. S. G.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HOME HOSPITALS ORGANISATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—The success of most schemes is founded on a good financial basis and thorough organisation. Let "Sister Catherine" begin her work in connection with her Home Hospital with a good balance at her banker's, and carefully consider each individual interest and organise accordingly. First come patients—(just at this period of our history we Nurses are sometimes apt to forget this little truth)—their comfort is the axle round which every department revolves, and for which, in reality, they exist. The Nursing of persons used to refinement—and by refinement I mean cleanliness, warmth, delicate food, true sympathy, beautiful surroundings—in fact, all which makes life a pleasure and

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)