

As regards the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, on May 17, 1705, "an Act was passed declaring that for the future no person should be admitted to be one of the fellows whose common business is to practise Midwifery. . . . and, further, that if any Member of the College shall, after his being received a fellow, practise any of these lower acts, he shall be degraded. . . . and struck out of the roll." (See Historical Sketch and Laws of the R. C. P., Edin.) As regards the Royal College of Surgeons of England, their Charter of 1843 enacted (10) : "No fellow shall be eligible as a member of the Council of the said College while practising Midwifery. . . . or who shall have practised Midwifery at any time during the five years next preceding the day of election, and if any member of the Council after his election shall practice Midwifery, he shall be liable to be removed from the Council."

As regards the Universities, they were equally as backward in this matter. It must be remembered that, even today, there are some who still resent the placing of Midwifery on the same level as Medicine, and who will do their utmost to repeal the Medical Act of 1886.

By this slow building up of Midwifery, the lives of innumerable women have been saved. Yet, although Dr. M. Duncan has told us that one in every fifteen women, in their first labour, dies, and the statistics of the London Lying-in Charities, fix it at one in twenty; although we know that many of our confinement cases are brought to a successful issue, not so much through the Obstetric as by our *Medicoal* knowledge, we have been pestered for the last two years by a number of faddists, diploma vendors, and women's

rights agitators, who seem to be doing their best—all in good faith—to repeal the Medical Act, and generally to show to us that the elevating of Midwifery to the same level of importance as Medicine and Surgery is a gross blunder, and that it must be given into the hands of Midwives. Or more plainly, a number of persons propose offering to the industrial classes an order of Obstetric Practitioners, whom they themselves would on no account call in to attend their own wives, nor would any of those Medical Practitioners, who now favour the proposal, recommend any of their patients, or relatives, or friends, to employ the class they propose supplying to every other person, themselves excluded.—I am, yours truly,
Liverpool. ROBERT R. RENTOUL.

Miss Mabelle Lee.—Write to Director-General Dr. James N. Dick, C.B., Avenue House, Northumberland Avenue, W.C. "The Nursing Directory" gives all the necessary information as to the conditions. Let us know if we can help you further.

Nurse Mossgray (Brighton).—"Bishop on Antiseptics" (price two shillings, from this office) would give you all the information you need.

A Would-be Nurse (Oxton).—No London Hospital takes Probationers under the age of twenty-one. Get "The Nursing Directory" (price five shillings from this office), which gives particulars of all the Nursing Schools. Glad to help you further if we can.

Miss Landale.—Your letter shall appear as soon as we can find space for it, probably on July 7th.

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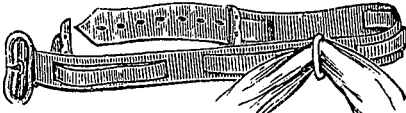
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