

tions may include general nursing, those employees shall be required to hold the added qualification of State Registered Nurse?

My Council base their belief, that Midwives employed under the Act may be engaged in general nursing, on official answers given by Mr. G. H. Shakespeare, M.P. (Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health), during the Committee Stage of the Bill.

(1) Mr. Duncan (Official Report, col. 84) moved to insert on page 1, line 27 of the Bill the words, "such midwives to include nurse-midwives employed as whole-time servants by the voluntary organisations," and said that he did this at the request of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing in order to make sure that nurse-midwives employed by district nursing associations should come within the meaning of the Act.

Mr. Shakespeare said:

"I assure my Hon. Friend that this point has been carefully considered and that it is covered in the Clause as at present drafted. It would be absurd in some rural districts to do otherwise than carry on the present practice, that is, to combine general nursing and midwifery, and Clause 1, subsection (1), covers the matter because it says that the midwives must be employed as whole-time servants."

(2) Replying to Mr. Lunn (Official Report, col. 170), who pointed out that midwives "might be employed in the work of nursing or health visiting or in other ways connected with the public health of the area," and desired to move an amendment covering this point, Mr. Shakespeare assured him that "the subsection which he wishes to amend was drafted to secure the purpose which he is anxious to secure because it is the most economical way of running the service in the rural districts."

Sir Francis Fremantle (Official Report, page 38) brought before the Committee "some facts concerning the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, which is the main centralisation of these voluntary organisations." In the course of his statement he said "there is a great deal of general nursing work for village nurse-midwives," and he enumerated the duties carried out by the village nurses, by arrangement between the county nursing association in Hertfordshire and local authorities. These included "general nursing, midwifery, school nursing, tuberculosis nursing, attendance at maternity and child welfare centres and ante-natal clinics, and last but not least the nursing of necessitous persons under grants from the public assistance committees."

If, as Mr. Shakespeare has stated, on behalf of the Government, the present practice of combining general nursing and midwifery is to be continued, by the midwives to be appointed as whole-time officials under the new Act, then we are strongly of opinion that the general nursing should be carried out by State Registered Nurses who conform to standards of Nursing as defined by State Authority, not by midwives who have had only the short term of nursing training at present required by most County Nursing Associations. We consider that this would be unfair to the sick poor, who would have the subsidised midwives thrust upon them as general nurses, and upon State Registered Nurses, who would be deprived of work for which they have qualified by years of training.

In view of the above facts, we earnestly trust that you will be so good as to give further consideration to these important aspects.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
ISABEL MACDONALD,  
Secretary.

#### WRIGHT-KINGSFORD HOME, NORTH FINCHLEY.

The thirty-seventh Annual Report of the Wright Kingsford Home has just been received, and it is pleasant to note each year how this Home for Children, fruit of the sacrifice, labour and administrative ability of two nurses, continues its beneficent work among the children. It provides them not only with healthy surroundings and all the requirements for building up a healthy physical body but also, by education and the development of sound ethical standards, it aims at making them useful members of society in the future. The importance of recognising the responsibility of the parents is shown by the fact that they contribute towards the maintenance of the child according to their means, and it is impressed upon them that they are expected to visit their children at regular

intervals. The Home now accommodates a hundred and twenty-eight children.

The very comprehensive report gives evidence, through the long lists of gifts received, that the Wright-Kingsford Home has found a place in the sympathies, not merely of individuals, but Day and Sunday schools in particular have been bountiful towards the children, and one of the former makes itself responsible for Christmas Day fare at the Home. Then other people, singly or in groups, have done their part to bring special treats to the children such as an occasional drive, visits to theatres and the like.

As regards finance there are indications that the home has to depend upon the spirit of those who love it and not upon a large bank balance. The total receipts for the year, to which the Report refers, were less than usual. Heavy expenditure is indicated in the future for reconstruction, if the Home is to maintain its efficiency, but that does not seem to give rise to any anxiety as to ways and means. In fact the spirit of Miss Wright, O.B.E., Hon. Matron and (with Miss Ellen Kingsford) a Founder, seems to take its colouring from a quotation which someone brought to us—"Fear knocked at the door, Faith opened it and—there was no one there." And so the promoters of the Home end their Report on a note of confidence that its organisation will prove to be one of continuous growth taking to-day as "the trustee of to-morrow."

#### "THE REVERSE BE MY LOT."\*

We have just received for review another brightly written volume from the pen of one of our members, Miss Margaret Morrison, S.R.N., M.R.B.N.A., "The Reverse be My Lot." The title of the book is taken from a sentence in the Hippocratic Oath, and so it follows that the book is largely the life story of a doctor, one keenly interested in certain branches of research, and this brings about a war between his thirst for the advancement of scientific knowledge and his conceptions of right and wrong. On this problem the story works itself out and maintains the interest of the reader as one situation follows on another. Miss Morrison relates it without resorting to the "padding" to which many readers object in a novel and the conversation flows easily along, one situation developing out of another without the need for explanations as to why they exist. Miss Morrison brings a fertile imagination to her service, and leaves it to make use of present-day values and to build up the story of her characters out of present-day concepts, which naturally are not quite those that held good in pre-Christian times and in the environment of the great physician Hippocrates.

#### OBITUARY.

##### Miss Nancy Winter.

It is with deep regret that we have received notice of the death of Miss Nancy Winter who joined the Association in 1890. Miss Winter was for some time Matron of the Hospital of Saffron Walden and during the war she returned to work and was Matron of the Red Cross Hospital there. The Memorial Service at Saffron Walden was conducted by Canon Spanton, a nephew of the late Miss Winter, and the chapel was filled by many prominent personalities in the district, numerous friends and many ex-members of the V.A.D. Staff who had worked under Miss Winter during the war.

The Association, through the passing of Miss Winter, has cause to mourn the loss of a Member always interested in its activities and its welfare and one who kept in close touch with it almost to the last.

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London, S.W.7.

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