

THERE has been a spasmodic correspondence proceeding in the *Lancet* upon the subject of the Registration of Midwives, and various cases have been given in which their gross ignorance and carelessness have caused fatal results. Last week, the following instance was given in a letter to the Editor from Dr. LEWIS E. PARKHURST. Our contemporary supports the Registration of Midwives, and so likewise do some of its correspondents. It is noticeable, however, that all the advocates of the measure overlook the crucial fact, that if the midwife be registered as they desire, as an independent practitioner, they are debasing one department of medicine, and certainly not the least important to the general community, without taking steps to raise the thousands of Sairey Gamps, who, driven out of the Nursing profession, now flourish as midwives. I am sure it is putting the cart before the horse, and I do not for a moment believe that the medical profession—with whom I cannot help thinking that this Journal is more in touch on this matter than our esteemed contemporary is—will permit such legislation to be effected. However, the letter to which I refer is as follows:—

"I was sent for on the 3rd inst. (by a telegram from a village "midwife") to see a woman whom I found in the last stages of exhaustion from post-partum hæmorrhage and who died shortly after my arrival. On making investigations I was informed that the patient had suffered from ante-partum hæmorrhage for some six weeks previously, that she had been confined of her tenth child about three hours before, and that the midwife (who arrived a few minutes after the birth of the child) exerted traction on the cord with the view of removing the placenta. The placenta tore in two with the force used, and the midwife thereupon introduced her fingers into the vagina and tore away the remainder, together with a considerable portion of the uterus, measuring about three inches by two. At the necropsy ordered by the coroner I found a small piece of very firmly adherent placenta near the fundus, and the part where the laceration had occurred was very evident; the serous coat of the organ was intact. The uterine wall was extremely soft and lacerable, and broke down readily on pressure with the finger; the muscular tissue under the microscope showed advanced fatty degeneration. It would seem that, as a consequence of the ante-partum hæmorrhage, the placenta had become adherent to the uterus, and that this, softened by the many and rapidly following pregnancies, had given way under the unskilled violence of the midwife. As in the West Bromwich case, it was allowed at the inquest that the midwife had done her best according to her light, but as she had sent for a doctor she escaped censure."

I AM asked to state that Mrs. HOLMES-SPICER, 6A, Bedford Square, W.C., has kindly consented to answer any questions relating to the Doll Competition for the Chicago Exhibition during Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK'S absence in the United States.

I HAVE just heard that the QUEEN has graciously expressed her interest in the work of Miss KATE MARSDEN, whose heroic journeys in Siberia were described in these columns last week. HER MAJESTY'S keen sympathy with suffering humanity has doubtless made her appreciate the exertions of Miss MARSDEN on behalf of helpless outcasts. S. G.

Post-Card Examination.

WE are pleased to announce that in the fortieth of this series of examination questions:—

"How would you Nurse a case of Cholera?"

Sister KATE COLLINS, whose card we reproduce, has secured the prize of a book or books to the value of five shillings:—

Sister Kate Collins
St. Helena Home

1. Grove End Road N.W.

Sept. 14th 1892

"How would you nurse a case of Cholera?"
I should isolate patient in a large airy room removing carpets and all unnecessary things. I should well protect bed with mactos. I should take the same to hang down on both sides of bed. I should apply heat for pain and get patient to take as much food as possible between successes and give tea to see on. I should sponge infected parts with carbolic 1-50. the other parts of body with water previous. I should use wool for sponging and destroy it. I should have by the bed side a vessel containing carbolic 5 per cent. through this I should put all linen used, and then into a mactos bag to be destroyed. I should cover all discharges with 5 per cent carbolic before destroying it. I should have my sheets well off the floor and instead of my ordinary dress I should wear one made of mactos with half sleeves. also rubber shoes these I should disinfect after. I should wash my face and hands in corrosive sublimate 1-2000. then in very hot water and soap and lastly carbolic solution. I should never eat or drink in the sick room, and never put my hands to my lips. I should follow faithfully all instructions given and do all in my power to prevent the spread of the disease. See The Nursing Record weekly at the Home.

The following have gained "HONOURABLE MENTION:—

Sister KATE DREW.
Miss EMILY SANDERSON, M.R.B.N.A.
Miss R. H. de TEISSIER CROSSE.
Miss MARY FISH.
Miss M. FALCON.
Miss M. JACOBSON.
Miss M. A. HEMPSEED.
Miss MARY HARVEY.
Miss KEEVILL.
Nurse CHARLOTTE COOPER.
Miss FLORENCE SHEPPARD, M.R.B.N.A.
Nurse CONWAY, M.R.B.N.A.
Nurse GOOCH.
Nurse SARAH J. PARR.
Miss ELIZA BAYLISS.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)