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Editorial.

SHALL MIDWIVES BE ENDED OR MENDED?—II.

IT, therefore, appears that the Select Committee of the House of Commons has arrived at the conclusion that Midwives must be mended. It does not appear, from the evidence, that it was brought to the knowledge of the Committee that the portentous figures usually quoted as to the evil results of Midwives' midwifery, are wildly exaggerated. The late Dr. AVELING used to quote them with much gusto until their accuracy was challenged at one of the London Medical Societies, and the data produced by that gentleman, for the said statistics, were shown by several speakers to be inaccurate, while the figures themselves were proved by another medical man to be ridiculously "coloured" and totally unreliable. In fact, we have no hesitation in saying that there is not the slightest necessity for the regulation of Midwives by Act of Parliament. That there exists a real need for the improvement of the present class of workers off the face of the earth, we are quite willing to admit; but that very desirable consummation could not be achieved by an Act of Parliament; and, in the next place, nothing would tend so greatly to perpetuate the present evils

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