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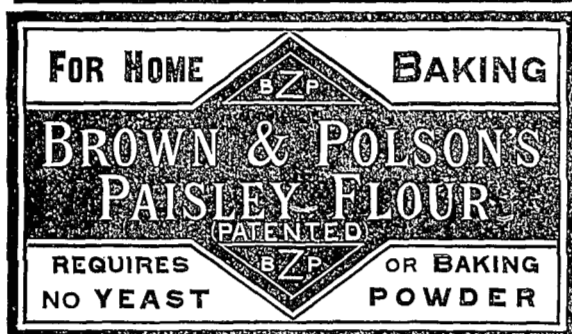
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## Editorial.

### THE BEGINNING OF THE ENDING OF MIDWIVES.

As our readers are aware, this Journal has consistently opposed the idea of legislation for midwives, and for two well-defined reasons, amongst others. Firstly, that here should be no midwives in the present day, however useful they may have been in former times, because, with the advance of knowledge and education, they, like barber-surgeons, have become obsolete. Secondly, because the place of midwives is now, and will be in the future to a greater extent more efficiently filled by well-trained Obstetric Nurses.

In our opposition to the proposed legislation, we are aware that we have stood alone with the sole exceptions of our influential contemporaries, *The Medical Times* and *The Provincial Medical Journal* in the professional and Nursing Press. And it, therefore, affords us the more satisfaction to be able to prove that once more we have been absolutely correct in the judgment we have expressed, and the course which, even when we stood quite alone in the matter, we adopted. We have always maintained that midwives are a sheer anachronism, that they did very well, and did no more harm, perhaps, than others, when the obstetric art was ignored or but little understood; but that, with the advance of science and the understanding which exists, at the present day, of the theory and practice of midwifery, it is preposterous to pretend that women who have had, perhaps, at the outside, three months' experience in a Lying-in Hospital, and, in the great majority of cases, not even that

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