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### Editorial.

#### MIDWIVES OR NURSES.

HERE are many indications that the Midwives' question may soon be solved. The medical profession has aroused itself to condemn the proposals for legislation made by, or on behalf of, the Midwives' Institute, and the real facts of the case are becoming plainly defined. So far as the safety of child-birth is concerned—and that is the first and greatest object to be attained—it must be remembered that each member of the medical profession has been compelled by law to pass through four or five years of a very laborious, complete, and expensive education. Midwives are, for the most part, women who are not educated at all, or have been but inefficiently trained for the very responsible work which they undertake. A few of them have passed through a period of training in Midwifery work—varying from three weeks to three months—but this too often has been merely sufficient to give them that little knowledge which is such a particularly dangerous thing. A still smaller number have been thoroughly trained as Nurses, and have then passed through the ordinary course of training

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