

within themselves, "a thing not explained in any Commonwealth." They make an important suggestion about these women, that before being admitted by the Bishop or Chancellor they be examined and approved by the President of the College of Physicians and two or three of the gravest of that Society such as the President shall nominate. Later the midwives themselves presented a petition, which shows how they resented the molestations of a Dr. Chamberlen in having the sole teaching and licensing of their body, "presuming that he hath more exact skill than all the grave and learned physicians of the kingdom in these cases, for he threatneth that he shall not repair unto such women as are distressed whose midwives have refused to conform unto him." This petition was referred by the King to the Lord of Canterbury and the Bishop of London, who inquired into and adjudicated upon it.

The first English midwife who published a book was Jane Sharp, in 1671, under the title of "The Midwives' Book, or the Whole Art of Midwifery Described; directing Child-bearing Women How to Behave Themselves." She remarks that it is commendable to men to employ their spare time in some things of deeper speculation than is required of the female sex; but the art of midwifery concerns us, which even the least learned men will grant, etc. History repeats itself in a somewhat similar manifesto of the present day.

At this period, there was a deeply-rooted prejudice to man midwives. In France, Clement was employed secretly to attend the mistresses of Louis XIV. in their accouchements; to the first of which he was conducted blindfold, while the King was concealed among the bed curtains, and the face of the lady enveloped in a network of lace. Accoucheurs, forsooth! said the midwives, a fine, new-fangled title first used by the French man midwife Clement, after he had delivered La Vallière, who everyone knows is no better than she should have been!

It was the introduction of the midwifery forceps which brought about the most marked changes in practice and the direst revolution among the midwives. It accentuated the furious resistance which they offered not only to their use, but to all those "instrumentarians" who sought to advocate this method of delivery. The dispute was acrimonious and vehement. Smellie was assailed with all the rancour and acerbity at command, and this was plentiful; his female opponents vied in the virulence of their language, and waxed eloquent in wrath. He suffered, as all innovators do, and unfortunately his

detractors were not all limited to the one sex. Smellie is said to have been ungainly and awkward in his manners; Dr. William Douglas described him as "a raw-boned, large-handed man, fit only to hold horses by the nose while they were shod by the farrier; or to stretch boots in Cranbourne Alley." This hostile criticism was outdone by a prominent midwife, Mrs. Nihell, who satirically alludes to "the delicate fist of a great horse godmother of a he midwife!" This gentle lady, in the outpouring of her feelings against the man midwives, rails against "that multitude of disciples of Dr. Smellie, trained up at the feet of his artificial doll—in short, those self-constituted men midwives made out of broken barbers, tailors, or even pork butchers; for I know myself one of the last trade who, after passing half his life in stuffing sausages, is turned an intrepid physician and man midwife."

Opprobrious epithets, ridicule, sarcasm, were all employed in the warfare which was waged with unremitting vigour. Anxious mothers in their distress vacillated in making a choice which sex to employ. Public opinion was brought to bear upon either side until the timid and irresolute were puzzled to know what to do.

Another name great in medical history at this time shared, or even exceeded, the honours obtained by Smellie. William Hunter had the dual merit (hard to realise at the present time) of being the best anatomist and accoucheur of his day. An interesting letter from his niece to her brother, Dr. Matthew Baillie, says of him: "Your Uncle William was the first man that ever attended any queen in this country. Queen Charlotte had been attended by a woman in her first confinement, and these ladies were well educated for their profession, and were commonly the daughters of medical men, or clergymen's daughters."

The credit of being the first lecturer on midwifery in Great Britain is due to Dr. John Mawbray, who gave lectures at his house in Bond Street about 1724. In 1739 Sir Richard Manningham established the first approach to a lying-in hospital. Queen Charlotte's was founded in 1752, the Royal Maternity in 1757, others about the same period, including the Rotunda of Dublin. Smellie had the start of William Hunter in London as a lecturer and a teacher. He was a genuine enthusiast in his profession. It is said of him that "man midwifery was the idol of his heart; he believed in his forceps as firmly as he did in his Bible." Yet his critics accused him of many faults in style and manner, some one asserting that he had a paper lantern

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