

A course of lectures on "Domestic Economy," is now being held at 53, Berners Street, at 3 p.m. These lectures are delivered by Mrs. Dickson, and as they are the first course on the subject held at the National Society's Lecture Rooms, special importance is attached to the series. The lectures are chiefly intended for the benefit of ladies who are interested in girls' clubs, mothers' meetings, district visiting, &c., &c.

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At the Annual Court of the Seaman's Hospital Society it was reported that the Queen's annual gift of 100 guineas and a quantity of cast linen had been received, as well as contributions from the Tsar, the Emperor of Austria, the Emperor of Germany, the King of Portugal, the King of Italy, and the Governments of Russia, Spain, China, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and the Netherlands, and also from the Secretary of State for India. But to carry on this great International Charity more liberal support is needed.

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Dr. Champneys, the Senior Obstetric Physician at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, has been elected President of the Obstetrical Society of London, and his inaugural address consisted of a sketch of the history of midwives—an older institution, he said, than the medical profession itself. His argument was strongly in favour of supplying the public with efficiently trained women as midwives, as they were absolutely necessary. Dr. Champneys strongly condemned the action of the General Medical Council in its recent resolution on the Society's diploma. It was decided to publish and circulate the address among the Fellows of the Society, and to distribute it widely amongst Members of Parliament and of the General Medical Council.

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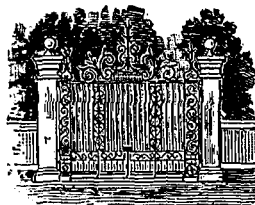
The Midwives' Registration Association have published the draft of their Bill for the Compulsory Registration of Midwives, with which we hope to deal, at length, next week. A cursory glance, however, discovers the fact that the Registration Board is to be composed of twelve medical men, so that should these female practitioners receive State recognition they are to be debarred from all voice in their own professional matters. This is a strange basis for such legislation, and should be strongly opposed by the Midwives' Institute, which should insist upon a due representation of qualified midwives on the Board.

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An International Congress for the Protection of Infancy will meet next July at Bordeaux.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



THE Queen has been graciously pleased to signify her intention to confer the Imperial Order of the Crown of India upon Mrs. Henry Fowler, wife of the Secretary of State for India, and upon Lady Sandhurst, wife of the Governor of Bombay.

Mrs. Sidgwick, the principal of Newnham College, Cambridge, will formally open Aberdare Hall (the Welsh "Newnham") in April next. The hall, which owes so much to Lady Aberdare, has already, before the ceremonial opening, no fewer than thirty-two students.

The London Young Women's Christian Association has issued an occasional paper called "United," in which, among other useful works, is recorded an interesting new departure in the opening of a large Home for Students, Governesses, &c., at "Kent House," 89 and 91, Great Portland Street, W. "For some time," it is stated, "we have been feeling that there is a large class of girls difficult to reach through our Homes or Institutes, but very much in need of help and sympathy—that large and ever-growing middle-class, to whose ranks belong many art-students, civil service clerks, college pupils and teachers. Who cares for them if they are without friends in London?"

"Now, for the first time we have attempted to meet the needs of such girls, re-opening as a Y.W.C.A. Home two cubical houses, ready for the reception of seventy or eighty boarders. A club for art-students will also be arranged, and suitable rooms set apart for the purpose.

"Quite a different work is carried on by the Y.W.C.A. Park Mission, and in connection with the Park Mission Lodge. The London parks are visited by the workers, stray girls are sought and brought into the Association Rooms, and, if necessary, placed in the Lodge, while inquiry is made into their circumstances. Many of the girls, who proved to be respectable and in great need, are aided with food and clothing and placed in domestic service."

A list of forty-eight Y.W.C.A. Institutes and Homes all over London is given, the office being at 16A, Old Cavendish Street, London, W.

Of all the merciful legislation of the century surely the Factory Acts are the most merciful. "Grandmotherly!" exclaims the advocate of *laissez faire* system. But, in spite of the backward tugs of this doggedly Conservative individual, England has come by slow degrees to recognise that, for instance, perhaps, after all, it is just as well not to work the child of 9, 10, 11, 12, as no farmer, without other motive than the protection of his purse, would dare to work his young cattle. By Mr. Asquith's new provisions, these Acts will be brought still closer into a line with modern sentiment. It is proposed to abolish overtime absolutely in the case of young persons, and lessen it

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)