

England. And we hear that there is a great deal of opposition to the Bill from the general practitioner, though this has only taken form during the last few years; we really have to remind the public that the lying-in woman does not exist for the doctor any more than for the Midwife. They both exist for the lying-in woman, and, if interests unfortunately clash, the right of the poor mother must be the first consideration."

And we are bound to say that these expressions of opinion were received with acclamation by the majority of the audience present.

Dr. Annie McCall then read Sister Katharine's paper on "The Employment of Midwives," which conveyed much the same opinions and policy as that of Miss Paget. Dr. Annie McCall, who has much experience in the training of Midwives, expressed the opinion that a three months' training turned out women quite capable of performing the duties required, and she met with warm applause at the end of an eloquent speech.

At the Annual Meeting of the National Union of Women Workers, which was held on Thursday morning, before the discussion on the subjects took place, on the motion of Mrs. Alfred Booth, of Liverpool, seconded by Mrs. Ross, of London, the General Committee passed the following Resolution:—"That this meeting regards the absence of public provision for the education and supervision of Midwives as productive of much fatal disease and serious suffering among the poor of this country, and urges upon Parliament the importance of passing some measure for the Registration of Midwives."

One hundred and one candidates passed the London Obstetrical Society's examination in October, 1896, graduating from thirty-four different Institutions. It would be interesting if a list could be published stating how many of these ladies had previously been trained as Nurses.

### Poplar Hospital Chapel.

THE Rev. Alan Nigel Campbell, Hon. Chaplain of the Poplar Hospital for Accidents, writes to the press that a real need has long been felt for a decent chapel, where patients and Nurses can attend Holy Communion and other Services without leaving the building. Hitherto they have had only an old wash-house, converted into a chapel, but it is hopelessly small and inconvenient. Mr. Campbell says nothing extravagant is wanted or asked for; the minimum cost of making alterations so as in any way to meet the needs will be £210, exclusive of fittings, and that he has undertaken to raise the necessary fund, to which the Chairman (the Hon. Sydney Holland) and the Committee have already contributed £10 each. There remains, therefore, £190 to be raised—and as the Hospital is so deservedly popular with the public, we sincerely hope this sum will soon be collected.

### Inventions, Preparations, &c.

#### A GLASS LIGATURE REEL.

THE want of an aseptic ligature reel for silk, which would be both simple, efficient, and at

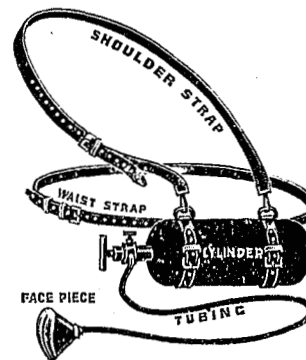
the same time cheap, has long been felt. Solid reels have the disadvantage when in use of requiring prolonged boiling in order to sterilise the deeper layers of the silk. Messrs. Reynolds and Branson, of Leeds, have now made a reel out of rod glass bent into the shape of a Maltese cross, so that the innermost layers of silk can



be easily permeated by the boiling water in the process of sterilising. They have produced a very simple and cheap reel according to this plan made in glass of various colours, so that the different sizes of silk may be easily distinguished. The glass is toughened by the boiling and does not easily break.

#### ABBOTT'S GAS CYLINDER SLING.

THIS arrangement has been devised by Dr. T. B. Abbott, of Aberford, Yorkshire. It was suggested by his personal experience as a medical member of the rescue parties engaged after the frightful colliery explosion at Micklefield in May, 1896. Compressed oxygen gas was provided as soon as the work of rescue commenced, and its restorative value was found to be very great. But the impossibility of carrying the cylinders over the extensive falls



of stone in the workings, along with the necessary dressings, restoratives, and lamp, showed Mr. Abbott that smaller cylinders were needful, and also that the cylinders must be slung in such a way as to be put on or off in a moment, both arms being left free to manipulate the gas, or to give restoratives, or to use dressings, &c. The Sling is suited to the 10 ft. Cylinders (or smaller), and it enables this supply to be taken wherever a man can pass in the pit. It is made only by Reynolds and Branson, 13, Briggate, Leeds.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)