

Council regards the Midwives' Registration Bill (Amended) as dangerous to the public and defective in its provision for the better education of Midwives. (2) That the Council, while recognising the importance of legislation for the better education and control of Midwives, is of opinion that the creation of a special Register of Midwives is attended with many and grave objections."

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"At a meeting of the Preston Medico-Ethical Society, held on December 4, 1890, it was resolved, 'That this meeting of medical practitioners strongly disapproves of the Midwives' Registration Bill (Amended), for the following reason: that it will be inexpedient and inconsistent whilst medical practitioners (men and women) are compelled before Registration to pass examinations in medicine, surgery, and midwifery, to allow imperfectly educated women to register as Midwives, the diseases of the puerperal state and pregnancy requiring as early recognition and prompt treatment as medical and surgical cases, and as much general medical knowledge.'" S. G.

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

LADIES AND KNITTING.

SITTING and knitting rhyme, and surely ought the words so to do, for hours enough have been spent sitting knitting by the good housewife, the bright needles flying to and fro beneath the busy fingers as the kettle sang on the hob. But not only indoors did they fly, for the picturesque old Welsh women used often to be seen knitting as they walked, nay, even as they rode. But machinery has quite put the nose out of joint of the bright little glistening steel pins. The Automatic Knitting Machine Company have a charming little improved machine, which will in from thirty to forty minutes knit a sock, and in an hour a stocking. Only last year was this little instrument improved and perfected, although as long ago as the Fisheries Exhibition it was exhibited and excited much comment, whilst the year later, at the Healtheries, it gained a prize. It is a pretty little instrument to look at, and better still its work cannot be distinguished from hand made. The price is from £5 15s. to £8 15s., but the machine may be hired by the payment of £1 deposit and 2s. 6d. weekly, or work will be accepted until the value of the machine is paid off. After this the Company does not accept work, the sale for which must be sought amongst wholesale and retail drapers.

The Company, besides paying for the value of the yarn already purchased by the customer, pays a further sum of 2s. 6d. per dozen pairs of socks, but rather more than this is usually paid by a retail trader. From 15s. to £1 has been made by a steady worker; but, as with everything else, the more the machines are purchased the more the competition will increase. At present this offers a fairer field than most for home work. Essentially, this is for home work, no young ladies being employed at the offices save one or two as teachers and revealers of the little machine's secrets. Not that they are very mysterious, for the mechanism is very simple and is easily learnt, the system being much the same as a sewing machine, and worked, as it is, by a handle, anything can be made—jerseys, shawls, muffs, fisherman's caps, bodices, &c., in fact any stitch done by the fingers finds a duplicate on the machine. What a useful present such would be for a mother of a large family who, leaving alone what she might earn, would certainly save in her stockings—still a serious item when many little feet are considered. The offices of the company are at 67, Southwark Street, London, S.E.; branch offices, 55, Oxford Street, W.; 65, Upper Street, Islington; also at both Birmingham and Glasgow. Orders for work are taken at the head office.

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WITH regard to home work for ladies—which, by-the-bye, is seldom satisfactory as to emolument and ever uncertain in its character—I wish to state that the Ladies' Working Guild lately held its annual winter sale at Kent House, Knightsbridge, by the kindness of Louisa Lady Ashburton. The sale and art and loan exhibition in connection with it was opened by the Princess Beatrice in person. The display of work was very fine, pohee work being very conspicuous for its quaint beauty and variety of patterns. This true and deserving Guild of sister workers is thoroughly worthy of the increasing patronage it receives.

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"A LADY typewriter" says a contemporary, "is now engaged in one of the Government offices." Here is a new order of things—the thin end, as it were, of the wedge. Soon the cry will be heard, Here they come, instead of Here she comes; and as in America, Government offices will become peopled with pretty lady clerks.

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THERE was given in a recent number of *Woman* an interesting account of the lady journalist, Miss M. F. Billington. The daughter of a country rector, Miss Billington was far removed in her early life from the world of letters and from the strife of pens. But a journalist she was

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