

THE CANADA MEDICAL RECORD

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

Subscription Price, \$1.00 per annum in advance. Single Copies, 10 cents.

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Editorial.

WHAT SHALL BE DONE WITH THE PROFESSIONAL MIDWIFE?

An article under the above title from the pen of Dr. Lewis, of New York, and published in "Medicus," issued at Frederick, M.D., has given us food for reflection. According to the figures published by the New York City Board of Health, it would appear that during the year 1891 there was reported 80,735 births. Of this number, 42,253 were reported by physicians and 38,482 by midwives. For the previous year the figures are very much the same. It would appear that the medical profession of that city shows an undivided opinion, that great evils are wrought by reason of the incapacity and negligence of these midwives. Dr. Lewis states that the hospitals and dispensaries of that city are daily witnesses to the criminality which permits ignorant women to act as medical guardians at the birth of the child. The consensus of opinion which holds this ignorance responsible for the many cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, and of ruptured perineums and of lacerated ora uterorum that are met with at the medical charities is unbiased, it is gleaned from the actual experience of the men who lead in these several specialties. The true