third pregnancy, having exerted herself to raise a heavy weight, she "felt something to give way inside" her, and immediately after perceived a tumour to protrude through the vulva; smart hemorrhage followed, but this soon ceased, and the tumour receded.

During the remainder of her pregnancy she continued to enjoy good health, and experienced no inconvenience unless she were to take a long walk, or make any unusual exertion, in either of which cases the tumour would again partially protrude, but it receded again on her lying down; there was also, on one or two occasions, slight hemorrhage. The midwife who attended her in her confinement, which appeared to have been rapid and easy, did not perceive anything unusual till, on the third day after delivery, she found a large mass protruding through the vulva—when, being alarmed, she came for me. I found, just as she described, a soft mass, of considerable size, lying in and nearly filling the vagina. At first I thought that was a portion of the placenta which had been left behind, it resembled it so much in appearance, but a careful examination proved it to be a polypus, which could be easily traced up to its attachment by a long and slender pedicle to the posterior lip of the os uteri; some hemorrhage followed the examination. As the woman was so recently delivered I thought it better to defer for a short time the removal of this polypus.

On visiting her again, after the lapse of two days, I found the pedicle shrivelled up, and the polypus itself beginning to decompose. I, therefore, divided the pedicle with a pair of scissors, at a distance of about half an inch from the os, and removed the mass, which proved to be a soft mucous polypus. The woman recovered without a bad symptom.

ART. VII.—*A Comparison between the Accidents which have Occurred in Scutch Mills, and in Factories Subject to Government Inspection, as they have come under my Notice during the Eight Years of my Connexion with the County Down Infirmary.* By JOHN K. MACONCHY, M.B., F.R.C.S.I.

IN the November number of the *Dublin Quarterly Journal* Dr. Babington, of the Londonderry Infirmary, has given some valuable information on the subject of the frequency of accidents occurring in scutch mills. My present object is to give further evidence on

this matter, and, if possible, aid in drawing attention to it, as I have no doubt there would be a diminution in the number and severity of accidents in these mills if they were subject, as far as practicable, to the same rules and inspection as factories.

Many of the accidents which have come under my notice have arisen from circumstances which improved machinery and due caution in management would obviate.

The worst source of injury and loss of life has been the use of the old wooden rollers, through which the flax has to pass several times; they are served from a narrow table, to which the flax is returned after passing through, and from which it is again started, so that the hands of the operative serving them are in frequent and close proximity to danger. The patent rollers used in most new mills are much smaller, capable of being completely covered, served from a table of over three feet long, and the flax has only to pass through once, and is delivered at the opposite end to its entrance, so that the operative serving them need never be in danger; and, owing to the small size and the fencing, even if he were caught, could not be so seriously injured.

Other sources of accident, such as carelessness in not giving due notice when the machinery is about being put in motion, want of proper fencing, and imperfection in the machinery, would come properly under the cognizance of a Government Inspector.

Aprpos of imperfect machinery. I lately visited an old mill in which the handle for putting the rollers out of gear was held to a beam of wood by a holdfast; the removal of the holdfast occupied at least two minutes; and when removed the handle itself would not consent to stir; had a finger been caught in these rollers the arm would have been drawn in to the shoulders before they could have been stopped.

It often happens in these mills that the owners of flax, or their servants, help in the rolling of it, and not being accustomed to machinery, they are peculiarly liable to accident. Any means of preventing this practice would be most desirable.

In order to estimate the comparative frequency of accidents arising from the two sources mentioned in the heading of this paper, I have endeavoured to arrive at some approximation to the numbers employed in each, and for how much of the year they are so employed in this district. This infirmary receives all the accidents of consequence occurring in four factories, which employ from 2,700 to 3,000 operatives constantly. In the same district there are now,

as far as I can ascertain, fifty-nine scutch mills, but at the beginning of the eight years of which I treat there were hardly thirty; at present the mills could employ about 2,500, but so many as this, are never employed even in the busiest part of the scutching season, which lasts three or four months, the work then gradually decreases, and for five or six months most of the mills are idle, so that I am sure I over-estimate the numbers employed in scutch mills on the average of the whole year at a quarter of those employed in the four factories. Were accidents in proportion to employment there would be at least four from the factories for one from the mills. How different the real proportion is will be seen at once by the table subjoined:—

	Factories.	Mills.
Fatal injuries,	0	6
Injuries involving loss of limb,	2	7
Injuries involving serious and permanent deterioration of a limb,	3	3

Even this table does not show fully the disproportion, for reference to the list of accidents will show a disproportion in severity which cannot be sufficiently expressed in a tabular form.

During the eight years the factories have occasioned the loss of two forearms and seriously impaired three arms, whereas, in the same time, the scutch mills have killed six people, seven survive minus a limb, and others with seriously impaired arms. Twelve of the sixteen mill accidents are more severe than any of the five factory accidents. The following accidents are all on the books of the infirmary, except two, in which the injuries were too quickly fatal for the removal of the patient.

Factory Accidents.

1. Mary Maguiness,	} Amputation of forearm,	} From revolving wheels.
2. Matthew Campbell,		
3. John Bell, partial amputation of hand,		
4. Charles Walsh,	} One arm seriously and permanently deteriorated,	} Caught in the hackles.
5. Edward M'Cartan,		

Scutch Mill Accidents.

1. Both arms caught in the rollers, and chest crushed against them. This man died almost immediately.

2. The left arm caught in rollers; ribs of that side broken; died the day after the accident.

3. Robert Smith, aged fifteen, admitted Jan. 19, 1859. Left arm drawn in by rollers; soft parts lacerated; blood-vessels and nerves torn; bones comminuted; at least two ribs, left side, broken; amputation at the shoulder joint; in a few hours the side became emphysematous where the ribs were broken. Died the day after admission.

4. Richard Hanlon, aged thirty, admitted 30th September, 1863. Right arm drawn in up to shoulders by rollers; no bone broken, only a slight wound in the upper and inner part of the arm; brachial artery not pulsating; arm evidently infiltrated with blood; cold; sensation destroyed. He positively refused to submit to operation till the next day; acute mortification set in during the night, extending to the wall of the chest. Died 4th of October.

5. James Bothwell, aged sixteen, admitted 2nd November, 1863. Right arm drawn in by rollers; humerus broken close below articular head; axillary artery and plexus of nerves torn; thoracic side of axilla bruised and torn; amputation at shoulder joint, but a clean wound could not be left; wound became sloughy; third day secondary hemorrhage, which was arrested, but he never recovered this second loss of blood, and died on 13th November, 1863. Were I called on to treat a similar case again, viz., amputation at the shoulder necessary, and some sloughing in the wound inevitable, my first step would be ligature of the third stage of the subclavian artery, trusting to the branches of the thyroid axis for the vitality of the wound and flap, and having the ligatured part of the artery as far as possible from the probable sloughing.

6. James Ringland, aged seventeen, admitted 20th January, 1865. Was cleaning behind handles when the machinery was put in motion; one leg and thigh torn, and bones broken in many places; the other less injured; body crushed; never recovered from collapse. Died 21st January, 1865.

7. Joseph Cleland, aged nineteen, admitted 1st December, 1863. Hand and wrist injured by wheels; amputation of forearm. Recovery.

8. Eliza Harbison, aged fifty, admitted 30th September, 1863. Left arm drawn in by rollers to above elbow; would not consent to operation; more than six months after forearm dropped off.

9. Isabella Coulter, aged sixteen, admitted 23rd December, 1863. Not a regular mill operative, but helped in the rolling; caught by

rollers; right arm drawn in to near shoulder; amputation at shoulder-joint. Rapid recovery.

10 James Fisher, aged twenty-nine, admitted 2nd November, 1864. Both arms drawn in by rollers; right arm amputated above elbow; left saved; now a tolerably useful limb; has recently been a patient of the infirmary, with lumbar abscess.

11. Edward Rogan, aged thirty, admitted 3rd February, 1865. Left arm drawn in by rollers; muscles, vessels, nerves, and bones all injured; amputation at shoulder-joint. Recovery.

In this case, it being the left arm, I operated by dissecting up the flap, and think it a more tedious proceeding, more troublesome in securing the arteries that surround the neck of the humerus, and certainly clumsy-looking surgery.

I would prefer to make the flap standing at the outside of the patient's arm, transfixing is so much easier, and more quickly performed.

12. John Hinds, aged forty-three, admitted 22nd March, 1865. This was a most peculiar accident. The right arm was drawn in by the rollers to near the shoulder; *no bone was broken, nor was there the slightest solution of continuity of the skin*, but sensation was destroyed; no pulsation to be felt in any artery below the axilla; the limb was cold, and slightly discoloured.

Every effort was made to try and convince the man of the danger and uselessness of trying to keep the limb, but when he saw no wound, and knew no bone was broken, he would not be convinced. So, exactly one year after, the forearm bones came off. He has a humerus covered with discoloured skin, devoid of sensation, and still largely ulcerated. I saw him a few days ago, so can answer for the state a year and nine months after the accident.

13. Pat M'Conville, aged sixteen, admitted 17th October, 1865. Caught in the metal wheels which move rollers; right arm injured to above elbow; artery torn; amputation in the upper third of arm. Recovery.

14. John Armstrong, aged fifty-four, admitted 22nd May, 1861. Caught in rollers; comminuted fractures of arm and forearm. Recovered, with a permanently damaged limb.

15 Pat. Gribben, aged thirty-four, admitted 31st October, 1862. A farm labourer, not a regular mill operative. Caught in rollers; vessels and nerves escaped; limb saved, but permanently deteriorated.

16. Thomas Martin, aged twenty-nine, admitted 18th November, 1865. Back of the hand struck by handles; extensor tendons destroyed; a permanently deteriorated limb.

There have been many injuries of less severity than the foregoing from both sources, and there is not the same disproportion between them that there is in the severe accidents; this I attribute to the want of fencing in the scutch mills. When machinery is well fenced, a finger or two may be caught, and the tops injured or lost, but the whole arm cannot be drawn in, and the more fatal forms of accident are avoided.

I believe reasons exist why the present Factory Act could not well be extended to scutch mills, at least without some modifications; yet if, in other localities where flax is much grown, accidents are as numerous as here, I think there are sufficient reasons for subjecting them to close inspection, forcing owners to adopt new and safe machinery, and use every effort in their power to prevent carelessness and exclude amateur operatives.

ART. VIII.—*Observations on the Comparative Advantages of Affording Obstetric Attendance on Poor Women in Lying-in Hospitals and in their own Homes.* By DENIS PHELAN, M.R.C.S., London; late P. L. Medical and General Inspector.

It seems, for many reasons, desirable to ascertain whether, in large cities and towns, such as London, Dublin, Glasgow, &c., society is as much benefited by affording obstetric attendance in lying-in or other hospitals to such poor women as wish to be confined in them as if it be afforded in their own residences—that is, in the residences of those who have a home in which they can be conveniently attended. Of course, for such exceptional cases as require careful medical watching or professional treatment the hospital is necessary.

The subject may be considered under these heads:—1. Which mode of attendance is the least expensive, assuming each to be efficient; and 2, by which is there less loss of life of mothers and children?

In respect to the comparative expense of hospital and of home attendance, we have the following data.