

SCIENCE AIDS MOTHERS

A hundred years' endeavour towards the goal of painless-childbirth-for-all comes within sight of achievement. A Bill goes before Parliament to make Analgesia the right for every mother, rich or poor. Ready to substitute for the midwife's existing, cumbersome Minnett gas and air machine are now drugs like Pethidine and Trilene. The aims of organisations like the National Birthday Trust, sponsoring research into painless childbirth are explained by the ex-head of London's County Council Hospitals, Doctor Fairfield:

SOUND

Before Trilene can be given to her patients by every midwife, a fool-proof inhaler must be perfected. Success with a new apparatus (demonstrated here) is close. If the Bill becomes law, every midwife may soon be trained to give Analgesia - the relief of pain without unconsciousness. Into Britain each year are born about 750,000 babies - only a pitiable proportion without unrelieved pain. Science repays humanity's debt to mothers.