

Midwives

Sir,—With regard to the comments of Dr Lewis King, chairman of the Medical Association (April 2), in the case of complications occurring during birth, the doctor/nurse team he refers to is actually a doctor/midwife team. There is a considerable difference between the two. In

most cases where the cord is around the baby's neck it can be slipped over the baby's head or shoulder. If this is not possible it is a simple matter to clamp and cut the cord. This does not require the presence of a doctor, but is a minor disorder that midwives deal with on a regular basis. In a significant proportion of births the doctor does not arrive until after the birth. Midwives are qualified to deal with complications such as haemorrhage and often have done so prior to the doctor's arrival. Haemorrhage is uncommon unless there has been some form of medical intervention, such as induction, augmentation or forceps delivery. — Yours, etc.,

G. E. WARWICK,
Midwife.

April 4, 1990.