

Mr. H. FELL PEASE,	Sir F. FITZ WYGRAM,
Chairman ... .. (G)	Bart. ... .. (C)
Mr. ALBERT BRIGHT ... (U)	Sir H. HOWORTH ... (C)
Hon. A. DE TATTON	Mr. B. PRIESTLEY ... (G)
EGERTON ... .. (C)	Mr. W. RATHBONE ... (G)
Dr. FARQUHARSON ... (G)	Mr. H. C. STEPHENS... (C)
Dr. FOX ... .. (A.P.)	Mr. A. WILLIAMS ... (G)

The witnesses examined were as follows:—

Mr. A. BRAXTON HICKS, Coroner.  
 Mr. HENRY BOTT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
 Mr. J. B. EMMERSON, M.D.  
 Mr. WILLIAM WILLIAMS, M.D., M.R.C.P.  
 Miss ANNIE MCCALL, M.D.  
 Miss LEAH GARRET.  
 Mrs. BEDINGFIELD.

*No mothers*, of course, could sit and adjudicate upon this Committee, which may affect their interests in such a vital manner. Could greater proof be needed—of the necessity for the enfranchisement of women?

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In the evidence many significant remarks were made. Dr. ANNIE MCCALL does not seem to have given very great thought to the subject, as she is reported to have said: "It is difficult to say what should be the time of training (for a Midwife); it depends upon the amount of intelligence in each case (also I should imagine upon the kind of instruction). For intelligent and educated women *three months* is nearly enough, though six is better, for others it would require a year at the least." Why attempt to teach a female dullard who would actually require one whole year's instruction in the science of midwifery before she could be considered capable of competing with the medical student of five years' experience. Surely she should be disqualified after the first three months' instruction, and thus make room for the heaven-born genius who can acquire the vast knowledge and experience needful for the care of our poor mothers and their babes in a three months' curriculum. Dr. ANNIE MCCALL would "only teach midwives subjects allied to midwifery. Indirectly, midwives will be a help to medical men, though, perhaps, they may interfere somewhat with the lower class of practitioner. The proper fee for a midwife should be 10s. 6d. or 15s." Considering how many thoroughly qualified men attend confinements amongst the poorer classes in the country for a guinea, we can imagine they will find the competition of the three months' midwife hardly helpful.

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Mr. HENRY BOTT says:—"The poor prefer to pay a woman 2s. 6d. because she acts as a Nurse as well. Poor people cannot afford to pay a Nurse as well as a doctor." If this is the case then the Midwife should be a trained Nurse as well as a medi-

cal practitioner, and for those poor persons who are not able to pay more than 2s. 6d. some co-operative arrangement should be organized by which they can procure the services of an efficient Nurse, who would be under the direction and control of the parish doctor.

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Mr. WILLIAM WILLIAMS says:—"The doctor's fee in my neighbourhood is 15s., and the Midwives about the same, but the Midwife acts as a Nurse for the requisite time."

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Miss LEAH GARRET says:—"In my opinion a Nurse ought not to be a Midwife as well as a Nurse, as a rule, because of the mixing of cases. I mean mixing ordinary surgical cases with midwifery cases." And later—"In my opinion, before a woman practices as a Midwife she should be certified and registered, and be well qualified as a Nurse as well." This is a little involved, and yet it is a relief to know that one witness out of the seven recognises the importance of the *Nursing* of lying-in mothers—and of the child—and as the attendant is to be *well* qualified as a Nurse, we must hope that a three months' curriculum is not to include this item as well as Midwifery.

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Mrs. BEDINGFIELD states:—"That a trained Midwife renders more service to her patient than a doctor does." This is exactly the tone of sentiment we should expect from Mrs. BEDINGFIELD. This lady advocates penal clauses, but makes one very sensible remark which we have been making to Nurses for the past five years. "The poor cannot distinguish between qualified and unqualified Midwives at present, but when we are registered and licensed, the people will be quick enough to recognise the difference."

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The *Lancet* says:—

"The Committee devote a long and final paragraph to the apprehensions expressed by some medical practitioners lest the interests of the profession should suffer by an improvement in the status of midwives. They declare that the great preponderance of medical and other evidence was against such a view, and expressed the belief that such improvement would not only relieve the medical profession of ill-paid and irksome work, but would have the effect of inducing midwives to send oftener and sooner for skilled medical assistance. It was to be expected that the Committee would devote serious attention to apprehensions that have undoubtedly been widely spread. We have already expressed our strong opinion that whatever lines may be laid down in the direction of requiring a certain amount of training amongst midwives must be sharply defined, and that no system can be satisfactory which does not absolutely limit the function of the midwife to natural labour. We have gone further and are prepared to insist that no system of trained midwives will be satisfactory

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