

The Proposed Midwives' Registration Bill.

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES.

- I.—Short Title.
- II.—Definitions.
- III.—Registration.
- IV.—Privileges of Registration.
- V.—Provision for existing Midwives.
- VI.—Constitution and Duties of Midwives' Board.
- VII.—Rules respecting the Examination of Midwives.
- VIII.—Fees and Expenses.
- IX.—Power to Midwives' Board to establish a General Register of Midwives.
- X.—Publication of Register.
- XI.—Supplemental Provision as to Register.
- XII.—Medical Officer of Health to supervise Midwives of District.
- XIII.—Notice of Death of Midwives.
- XIV.—Penalty for Obtaining Registration by False Representation.
- XV.—Penalty for Wilful Falsification of Register.
- XVI.—Prosecution of Offences.
- XVII.—Appeal.
- XVIII.—Extent of Act.

BE it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:—

I. *Short Title.*—This Act may for all purposes be cited as the Midwives' Act, 1895.

II. *Definitions.*—In this Act:—The term "midwife" means a woman who undertakes to attend cases of natural labour without the direct supervision of a medical practitioner.

"Midwives' Register" means a register of midwives kept in pursuance of this Act.

"Midwives' Board" means the Board constituted under this Act for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Act, subject to the approval of the General Medical Council.

III. *Registration.*—(1) From and after the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six, a woman shall not be entitled to take or use the name or title of midwife (either alone or in combination with any other word or words), or any name, title, addition or description, implying that she is registered under this Act, or is specially qualified to act as a midwife, unless she be registered under this Act.

(2) Any person who, after the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six, not being registered under this Act, shall take or use the name of midwife, or any such other name, title, addition, or description as aforesaid, shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five pounds, provided that nothing in this section shall apply to legally qualified medical practitioners.

(3) No woman shall be placed on the Midwives' Register until she shall have complied with the rules and regulations for admission to registration to be laid down in pursuance of the terms of this Act by the Midwives' Board, acting under the direction of the General Medical Council.

IV. *Privileges of Registration.*—A woman registered under this Act shall be entitled to act as a midwife in England and Wales. From and after the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six, no woman shall be entitled to recover any fee or charge in any Court for attendance or service rendered as a midwife unless such woman is registered under this Act, and the certificate of registration under this Act shall be a certificate entitling a woman to act as a midwife in cases of natural labour only, in accordance with the prescribed regulations made in pursuance of the terms of this Act. A certificate under this Act shall not confer any right or title to be registered under the Medical Act, 1858, or the Acts amending the same, in respect of such certificate, nor to assume any name, title or designation implying that the woman mentioned in the certificate is by law recognised as a licentiate or practitioner in medicine or surgery or to recover by legal process any charge for operative procedure.

V. *Provision for existing Midwives.*—Any woman who at the passing of this Act is in *bonâ fide* practice as a midwife, or has obtained a certificate in some hospital or workhouse infirmary, and claims to be registered before the expiration of one year from the passing of this Act, and produces the prescribed evidence of her title to be so registered (such title to be determined by the General Medical Council), shall be entered on the Midwives' Register at such reduced fee as the Midwives' Board shall prescribe.

VI. *Constitution and Duties of Midwives' Board.*—Immediately from the passing of this Act a Provisional Midwives' Board shall be formed, and shall consist of twelve registered medical practitioners, three to be appointed by the Royal College of Physicians of London, three by the Royal College of Surgeons of England, three by the Society of Apothecaries, and three by the Incorporated Midwives' Institute. This Board shall hold office for one year or until the Midwives' Board has been appointed. The duties of this Board shall be to nominate the members of the Midwives' Board for appointment by the General Medical Council, and to carry out such of the duties of the Midwives' Board hereinafter specified as may be necessary to ensure the speedy enforcement of the provisions of this Act. The Midwives' Board shall be appointed within one

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)