

the restoration to the roll of the name of any midwife so removed.

(f) *To issue licences.*

III.—And generally to do any other act or duty which may be necessary for the due and proper carrying out of the provisions of this Act.

It will be seen that by the constitution of the Central Midwives Board, it is to consist of four registered medical practitioners, and two persons appointed for terms of three years by the Lord President of the Privy Council. The midwives will therefore be in the anomalous position of being governed by those who are not members of their profession, for even if, as is extremely improbable, the Lord President of the Privy Council should appoint midwives on to the Board the vote will always be in the hands of the medical members. I doubt if any other body of women ever has, or ever will, consent to be governed by another profession. In the case of the midwives it is a peculiarly undesirable arrangement, because their work, if successful, must bring them into competition financially with some general practitioners, and so is likely to arouse the most bitter opposition. Beyond this professional antagonism there is further the antagonism of the man against the woman, and the vindictive determination of the less broad minded men to prevent at all costs, and by any means, the organization of women. It appears to me therefore that the position of the midwives under this act will be so defenceless as to make it impossible for any self respecting midwife to continue in the exercise of her profession. If however midwives allow this Act to become law, without protesting against its unfairness, if they do not publicly object to the fact that they are allowed no voice in the control of their own vocation, then no doubt they will also be subservient enough to subscribe to the conditions which are imposed upon them, however humiliating these conditions may be.

6. FEES AND EXPENSES.—There shall be payable by every woman presenting herself for examination or licence such fees as the Central Midwives Board may, with the approval of the General Medical Council, from time to time determine. All fees paid by existing midwives and by candidates for examination shall be paid to the Central Midwives Board. The said Board shall devote such fees to the payment of expenses connected with the examination and licence, and to the general expenses of the Board. Should these fees not equal the expenditure of the Board, the deficiency shall be supplied from the respective local administrative county funds, in proportion to the number of licensed midwives in the said county.

No part of the fees paid by midwives are set aside to improve the education and general condition of midwives. They are devoted to the payment of expenses connected with examination and licence, to the payment of fees to examiners presumably, and to the defraying of general expenses. There is no prospect, therefore, that

the sums of money paid by the midwives will in any way be utilized for their own benefit.

7. MIDWIVES ROLL.—There shall be a Midwives Roll containing:

(1) *The names of those midwives practising at the date of the passing of the Act who have been licensed to practise under the Act:*

(2) *The names of those not already in practice as midwives at the passing of the Act, but who have been licensed to practise under the Act.*

*The entry on the roll shall in every case indicate the qualifications in virtue of which the licence was granted.*

8. APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY.—The Central Midwives Board shall appoint a Secretary who shall be charged with the custody of the roll.

SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISION AS TO LICENCE.—A copy of the midwives roll for the time being shall be in evidence in all Courts that the women therein specified are licensed according to the provisions of this Act; and the absence of the name of any woman from such copy shall be evidence, until the contrary be made to appear, that such woman is not licensed according to the provisions of this Act. Provided always, that in the case of any woman whose name does not appear in such copy, a certificate under the hand of the Secretary of the entry of the name of such woman on the roll shall be evidence that such woman is licensed under the provisions of this Act.

The withdrawal of the supporters of the Compulsory Registration of Midwives from the position which they originally took up is here evidenced by the substitution of a Midwives Roll, under the custody of a secretary, for a Register kept by a registrar. The Roll, as at present suggested, would appear to be of very little value to midwives.

9. LOCAL SUPERVISION OF MIDWIVES.—Every administrative County Council throughout England and Wales, shall, on the passing of this Act, appoint its medical officer of health or other registered medical practitioner or practitioners, as the local supervising authority over midwives within the area of the said County.

It shall be the duty of the local supervising authority:

(1) To exercise general supervision over all midwives practising within the prescribed area in accordance with the rules to be laid down under the provisions of this Act.

(2) To investigate charges of malpractice, negligence or misconduct on the part of any midwife practising within the district, and, if he consider that a *prima facie* case is established, to report the same to the Central Midwives Board.

(3) *To suspend any midwife from practice, in accordance with the rules to be laid down by the Central Midwives Board, if he considers such suspension necessary to prevent the spread of infection.*

(4) To report at once to the said Board the name of any midwife practising in his district convicted of a misdemeanour or felony.

(5) *During the month of January of each year to supply the Secretary of the Central Midwives Board with the names and addresses of all midwives practising in his district, and to keep a correct copy of the midwives roll, accessible at all reasonable times for public inspection.*

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