

wives has been removed from the roll and of the date of such removal shall be evidence that such woman is not certified under this Act, and of the date as from which she ceased to be so certified."

Section 4 makes provision for the payment of reasonable expenses to members of the Board in respect of their attendance at meetings on a scale approved by the Privy Council.

Section 5 deals with the annual report of the Board to the Privy Council. Such a report is, in fact, already made by the Board. The section provides that it shall contain "such particulars as the Privy Council may direct."

Section 6 (1) authorises the Central Midwives Board to frame rules deciding the conditions under which midwives may be suspended from practice and includes a power of framing rules—

(a) Authorising the Board to suspend a midwife from practice in lieu of striking her name off the roll and to suspend from practice any midwife accused before the Board of disobeying rules or regulations, or of other misconduct, until the case has been decided and, in the case of an appeal, until the appeal has been decided.

(b) Authorising the local supervising authority which takes proceedings against a midwife before a Court of Justice, or reports a case for consideration by the Central Midwives Board, to suspend her from practice until the case has been decided.

At present, neither the Central Midwives Board nor a local supervising authority has power of suspension in a punitive or disciplinary sense, though, under its rules, local supervising authorities may suspend a midwife from practice to prevent the spread of infection.

Section 6 (2) provides that when a case has been decided in favour of a midwife who has been suspended from practice pending its decision, the Board, or local supervising authority concerned, "may, if they think fit, pay her such reasonable compensation for loss of practice as under the circumstances may seem just."

"BREAKING A LANCE FOR THE MIDWIFE."

On this Clause, the Earl of Meath moved to delete the words we have quoted, and to insert "shall pay her reasonable compensation for loss of practice," because, as he explained, it appeared to him there is a want of elementary justice in this second sub-section.

"I wish," he continued, "to break a lance for the midwife. It appears to me she is hardly properly treated. You give power to the Central Midwives' Board and to the local supervising authority to suspend her, but if it is proved that she is innocent it would be only justice that some reasonable compensation should be given to her for loss of practice. . . . Once upon a time, Mr. Gladstone said that we, in this House, lived up in a balloon; but I think we know enough of affairs terrestrial to be aware of the fact that a prosecutor is not likely to do justice to a defendant if it is

proved that the defendant is innocent, and that the prosecutor is the very last person to give compensation and thus be likely to stultify himself."

Viscount Peel said he did not think the noble Earl need display any anxiety that there would not be plenty of noble Lords in that House who would break lances on behalf of midwives, because in his experience they had many strong friends, not only there, but in the other House. He was advised that the particular proposal of the noble Lord would make little, if any difference in practice. Further, he believed it would be far better to leave the whole matter to the fair discretion of the Board. He hoped the noble Earl would not press his amendment.

The Earl of Meath said the noble Viscount had alluded to the Central Midwives' Board, but not to the local supervising authority, which was the body least likely to give the compensation needed.

On question, the Amendment was negatived and Clause 6 agreed to.

(To be concluded.)

NATIONAL BABY WEEK.

Presiding at a meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, during Baby Week, Sir Francis Champneys, Chairman of the Central Midwives' Board, advocated a closer co-operation between medical practitioners and midwives and a longer training for the latter. Their status, he said must be increased and the calling made more attractive. He also spoke of the great future before ante-natal clinics and the necessity for the provision of decent houses—housing conditions affected the health of mother and child enormously.

PATHOLOGICAL SECTION OF THE EXHIBITION.

Admission to this section was restricted to doctors, nurses, midwives, sanitary inspectors, health visitors and infant welfare workers. Very terrible, but very informing, were some of the exhibits, showing various diseases and abnormalities, including the ravages of syphilis.

"ORDER OF THE BRITISH CRADLE."

At the opening of a day nursery at Stuart Crescent, Wood Green, last Saturday, Mr. Pett Ridge said that while a great many Orders had been given to more people than wanted them, no one had thought of creating the Order of the British Cradle, to be given to mothers who brought up their children well under difficulties. A small boy of three, on being brought one day to a Hoxton nursery, cried bitterly when his mother left him. The next morning the mother stayed chatting with the sister for a few moments to break the anguish of the parting, but the boy glanced up from his playthings on the floor and said, "'Op it, mother."

We don't like that little boy.

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