

and to direct the attendance of candidates at such centre as may be deemed most convenient.

5. To frame for approval by the General Medical Council rules for regulating the admission to the Register—(a) Of women already in practice as midwives at the time of the passing of this Act; (b) Of midwives who shall pass the qualifying examination instituted by the Act.

6. To keep a general list of all persons entitled to style themselves midwives, and to appoint a Registrar who should also act as Secretary to the Board.

7. To frame for approval by the General Medical Council rules for regulating the practice of midwives.

8. To decide all medical questions arising under the Act, except where the settlement of such questions is therein otherwise provided for. The Central Board should be the sole judge as to whether a midwife has been guilty of infamous conduct in respect of her calling as a midwife. For the purpose of determining these questions the Central Board should have power to refer to the Local Boards, for consideration and report, any case of malpraxis, negligence, or misconduct on the part of a midwife which has come to their knowledge.

9. To decide upon the removal from the Register, either temporarily or permanently, of the name of any midwife, and upon the restoration to the Register of the name of any midwife so removed.

10. To control the expenditure incurred in connection with the examinations and investigations carried out by the Local Boards.

THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.

The General Medical Council should be invited to undertake the following duties:—

1. To decide the qualifying course of instruction, and the conditions of admission to, and the scope of, the examination.

2. To decide the rules for regulating the admission to the Register—(a) Of women already in practice as midwives at the time of the passing of the Act. (b) Of midwives who shall pass the qualifying examination instituted by the Act.

3. To decide the rules for limiting and regulating the practice of midwives.

4. To appoint examiners (*vide supra*).

THE COUNTY COUNCILS.

The following duties should be assigned to the County Councils:—1. To keep a current copy of the Midwives' Register. This Register should be accessible at all reasonable times for public inspection.

2. To appoint a Local Supervising Authority, and to defray all expenses of local supervision.

The Local Supervising Authority should be the Medical Officer of Health to the County Council, or such other qualified medical practitioner as the County Council may appoint.

3. To undertake the prosecution of any person reported to them by the Local Supervising Authority as having committed a misdemeanour (under this Act) within the administrative county.

4. To carry out such other provisions of the Act as are not already included in the duties of the midwives' boards.

Duties of the Local Supervising Authority.—1. To receive and transmit to the Register certificates presented by persons claiming, under the Act; the right to style themselves midwives, and to make inquiry, where it seems necessary, as to the satisfactory nature of the certificates.

2. To intimate to the Registrar the death or any change in the name or address of any of the midwives in the district within the month.

3. To exercise general supervision over all midwives practising in his district.

4. To investigate charges of malpraxis, negligence, or misconduct on the part of any midwife practising within his district, and if he consider that a *prima facie* case is established, to report the same to the Registrar for the information of the Central Board; and if the Central Board so direct to report the same to the County Council.

5. To report at once to the Registrar, for the information of the Central Board, the name of any midwife practising in his district convicted of malpraxis, negligence, misconduct, misdemeanour, or felony.

Note.—He should be provided by every midwife practising in his district with a periodical return of the cases attended by her on a specified form to be supplied by him.

REGISTRATION.

Every candidate before being placed on the Midwives' Register must have complied with the rules of admission laid down by the Central Board under the direction of the General Medical Council.

Every candidate before registration should be required to undertake to conform to the rules laid down for her guidance by the Central Board under the direction of the General Medical Council.

No woman should be allowed to assume the title of midwife or its equivalent unless registered under this Act.

No woman should be allowed to hold any public appointment as midwife unless registered under this Act.

In the event of a midwife changing her name or address, she should at once give written intimation to the Local Supervising Authority.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)