

county district, and the borough council were the district council of that district.

NOTICE BY MIDWIVES.

11. Under Section 10 it will be necessary for every woman who is certified as a midwife under the Act, before holding herself out as a practising midwife, or commencing to practise as a midwife in any area, to give notice in writing of her intention to do so either to the local supervising authority, or to the body to whom for the time being the powers and duties of the local supervising authority have been delegated under the Act, and she must give a like notice in the month of January in every year afterwards during which she continues to practise in the area.

12. This notice must be given to the local supervising authority of the area within which the woman in question usually resides or carries on her practice. A like notice must also be given to every other local supervising authority or delegated body within whose area the woman at any time practises or acts as a midwife, within forty-eight hours at the latest after she commences so to practise or act.

13. Every notice must contain such particulars as may be required by the rules under the Act to secure the identification of the person giving it. It will be part of the duty of the Central Midwives' Board to define, by the rules which that body have to frame as above mentioned, the particulars thus required.

14. In order to ensure proper notifications of practice by certified midwives, Section 10 further provides that if any woman omits to give the notices in question or any of them, or knowingly or wilfully makes or causes or procures any other person to make any false statement in any such notice, she shall, on summary conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding £5.

PROSECUTION OF OFFENCES.

15. In addition to the other powers and duties conferred by the Act upon the local supervising authority, they are by Section 13 authorised to prosecute any offences under the Act punishable on summary conviction. The offences created by Section 10 have just been referred to. Attention may also be called to the other offences under the Act which may be prosecuted by the local supervising authority. These are specified in subsections (1) and (2) of Section 1 of the Act. The first of these enactments provides that from and after April 1st, 1905, any woman who not being certified under the Act shall 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 certified under the Act, or is a person specially qualified to practise midwifery, or is recognised by law as a midwife, shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5. Subsection (2) of Section 1 provides that from and after April 1st, 1910, no woman shall habitually and for gain attend women in childbirth, otherwise than under the direction of a qualified medical practitioner, unless she is certified under the Act; and that any woman so acting without being certified under the Act shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £10. But this section is not to apply to legally qualified medical practitioners, or to anyone rendering assistance in the case of emergency.

EXPENSES AND FEES.

16. Section 15 of the Act provides that any expenses under the Act payable by the council of a

county or county borough shall be defrayed out of the county fund or out of the borough fund or borough rate, as the case may be.

These expenses will include not only the general expenses of the council themselves as local supervising authority in connection with the execution of their duties under the Act, and the expenses of any prosecutions which they are authorised to undertake as above mentioned (as well as the expenses, within the prescribed limit, of any district council to whom the council of a county may have delegated their powers and duties under Section 9 of the Act), but may also comprise certain sums which the council may have to pay to the Central Midwives' Board under Section 5 of the Act. That section makes provision for the payment of certain fees to the Central Midwives' Board by women who present themselves for examination or certificates as midwives. These fees are to be devoted to the payment of expenses connected with the examination and certificate, and to the general expenses of that Board, who are required, as soon as practicable after December 31st in each year, to publish a financial statement made up to that date (which must be certified as correct by a properly qualified accountant) showing the receipts and expenditure, including their liabilities, during the year. The Central Midwives' Board must then submit a copy of this statement to the Privy Council, and, if the statement shows any balance against the Central Midwives' Board and the balance is approved by the Privy Council, that Board are authorised to apportion that balance between the councils of the several counties and county boroughs in proportion to the number of midwives who have given notice during the year of their intention to practise in those areas respectively, and to recover from the councils the sum so apportioned.

Local Government Board,
April, 1903.

Progress of State Registration.

Our American colleagues who in the fall of 1901 gave their adhesion to the principle that it was the duty of nurses in every country to work for suitable legislative enactment have performed that duty so thoroughly that in five of the United States the Registration of Nurses is now an accomplished fact, for to the four States mentioned in our last issue must be added that of Virginia, which has now passed a Bill requiring women who desire recognition as trained nurses to pass an examination conducted by a State Board of Examiners prior to such recognition. The delegation of trained nurses present in the Capitol when the Bill passed the Senate were in charge of Mrs. P. A. S. Brine, the wife of the British Vice-Consul, and herself a graduate nurse.

Governor Odell has signed the Bill providing for the registration of trained nurses by the State University of New York. Only those who are so registered may hereafter legally sign "R. N." after their names, or wear these initials upon their uniforms.

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