

Sarah Ann Lambert was convicted under the Notification of Births Act of failing to notify a birth. The case was reported to the last meeting of the Board, who directed the Secretary to enquire (1) if the father of the child was resident at the time of the birth, and whether a *prima-facie* case had been found by the Local Supervising Authority. The Rotherham Town Clerk now informed the Board that the father was resident at the time of the birth, and that no *prima facie* case had been made out by the L.S.A. The Chairman said that it was very hard on the midwife to hold her primarily responsible for notifying, and no action was taken.

A letter was read from the Medical Officer of Health for Manchester enclosing a resolution of the Local Supervising Authority suggesting the amendment of the Midwives' Act so as to bring monthly nurses within its scope. The opinion was held by the L.S.A. that in order to deal effectively with puerperal morbidity it was essential that maternity nurses as well as midwives should be put under its supervision.

The Board adopted the recommendation of the Standing Committee that "it is inexpedient to extend the provisions of the Midwives' Act to nurses who act under the direction of a medical practitioner responsible for the case." The Chairman remarked that it would be "out of the question" to do so.

In the case of a pupil midwife who complained of the methods of training adopted in a cottage hospital where the medical officer is a recognised teacher, and the Matron is approved for signing Forms III. and IV., it was decided to ask the medical officer his explanation of the matters complained of.

The Board decided that they were not prepared to consider any further applications for admission to the Roll, in exceptional cases, under Section 2 of the Midwives' Act.

Frances Ashcroft, No. 5625, and Mary Jones, No. 18306, were removed from the Roll at their own request.

The application of the Monmouthshire Training Centre for approval as a Training School was granted.

Mr. W. F. Cholmeley, F.R.C.S., and Dr. Louisa Martindale were approved as teachers, and Miss H. K. E. Lonnen, No. 4211, and Miss Mary Newton, No. 5650, were approved for the purpose of signing Forms III. and IV.

The Secretary was authorised to negotiate for the transfer of the offices of the Board to the West Wing of Caxton House, now in the course of erection.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

It was agreed to sell out £500 more in stocks before the next meeting.

REPORTS.

The Secretary's Report on the June examination and Dr. Herman's Report as Visitor to the Examination at Manchester were received.

RESOLUTION.

Mr. Fordham then moved: "That it is desirable that Section 5 of the Midwives' Act, 1902, be amended so as to provide for the apportionment of the balance of the annual expenditure of the Board not met by fees and other receipts, on the areas of the several Local Supervising Authorities, on the basis of the population at the last census for the time being.

In moving the Resolution, Mr. Fordham said that the time was approaching when the question of a levy upon the County and County Borough Councils must come up. The method for making this levy provided for in the Act, namely, that any balance against the Board should be apportioned between these councils in proportion to the number of midwives who have given notice during the year of their intention to practice would theoretically not be inequitable, assuming uniform local activity in the administration of the Act. In practice it would certainly be extraordinarily so.

Mr. Fordham counted the amount to be raised at £2,000 per annum. At present, out of more than 24,000 midwives on the Roll, about 13,000 give notice of their intention to practise. To raise the amount required, therefore, a levy of about 3s. per head of notifications would be required. But in some areas there are no notifications. In Ely, for instance, with a population of 54,495, no notification has been received; Huntingdon, population 54,125, there are 6 notifications, and the levy would therefore be 18s. In Dudley, population 48,733, there is one notification, the levy would therefore be 3s.

In some areas the Act is administered with great efficiency. Thus in Cheshire, population 599,070, there are 473 notifications, and the levy would be £70 19s. In Staffordshire, population 899,142, with 694 notifications, the levy would be £104 2s. The method at present arranged is, therefore, a direct premium on the neglect of statutory duties.

Mr. Fordham proposed that the method of apportioning the balance should be based on the population at the last census. By this method Ely, instead of paying nothing, would pay £4 0s. 7d.; Huntingdon £3 7s. 8d. instead of 18s., and so on. In the areas where the Act is efficiently administered the payment would be reduced on this basis, thus Cheshire would pay £37 2s. 4d. instead of £70 19s., Staffordshire £51 10s. 1d. instead of £104 2s., and so on. The contributions of efficient county areas would thus be reduced to one-half except in the case of London. Here the population in 1901 was 4,536,541, and the notifications this year 490. As at present provided for in the Act, the contribution of London would be £73 10s.; on the new basis £283 10s. 3d.

Mr. Fordham's resolution was carried unanimously, and he then presented a Draft Bill for the amendment of Section 5 of the Midwives' Act, 1902. The Board approved the Draft, and it was agreed that the Privy Council be asked to arrange for the introduction of the Bill in the present Session of Parliament.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for October 15th, and the meeting then terminated.

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