

## CLAUSE XVII.

Clause XVII. provides that a medical practitioner summoned on the advice of a certified midwife in emergency shall be entitled to recover his fee from the Board of Guardians of the Poor-Law Union in which the woman resides.

Miss Paget wished to substitute "the Local Supervising Authority" for "the Board of Guardians," but the Chairman was of opinion that the Central Midwives' Board was not an expert on this matter, and that it was a question for the House of Commons.

## EXAMINATION PAPER.

The following are the questions set at the Examination of the Central Midwives' Board on April 28th, 1910:—

1. What do you mean by an antiseptic? Name three in common use in midwifery. State for what purpose you would use each of those you mention, and how you would prepare them.

2. What symptoms in a pregnant woman would lead you to suspect the onset of eclampsia? What treatment would you adopt before the arrival of a doctor?

3. Describe the management of a case of un-complicated twin labour at full term.

4. Supposing you had attended a case of puerperal septicaemia, describe fully what precautions you would take before attending another confinement.

5. What are "after-pains"? To what causes are they due, and what treatment would you adopt in a severe case?

6. Describe the normal appearance of the infant's stools from birth until the end of the first week. What changes in them would you think it necessary to report to the doctor?

## THE SUPPLY OF MIDWIVES IN LONDON.

The Midwives Act Committee of the London County Council on April 19th, as reported by the *Lancet*, drew the attention of the Council to the Order in Council issued on March 14th last authorising the Central Midwives Board to enrol, without examination, any women entitled under Section 2 of the Act of 1902 to be certified, but who failed to make application, provided that no one is admitted to the roll in this manner after Sept. 30th. From evidence given before the Departmental Committee appointed to consider the working of the Act of 1902, it appeared probable (said the Committee) that the number of midwives at present certified under the Act would be insufficient in a few districts. It was to meet this difficulty, apparently, that the Order in Council had been made. In London, however, so far as could be ascertained, the number of midwives was in excess of requirements. In these circumstances it seemed very undesirable that any addition of insufficiently trained persons should be made to the ranks of women permitted by law to engage in practice in London, and the Committee recommended that the Central Midwives' Board should be asked to refrain from admitting to the roll of midwives in London any person unqualified by examination. This was agreed.

## The Direct Representation of Midwives.

A meeting of Midwives to discuss direct representation on the Central Midwives' Board was held in the Cavendish Rooms, W., on Friday, the 29th of April. Mrs. Robinson, the President of the 1910 Union of Midwives, was in the chair.

Mrs. Eddy, a Committee member of the National Association, opened the discussion with a very able address on direct representation. She urged the necessity for all midwives to band themselves together in order to obtain what is so badly needed—a working midwife on the governing body, and reminded the meeting that at the Conference at the Royal Horticultural Hall we were told that the word "interest" was heard too frequently; we should be all working for the interest of the mothers and children. Mrs. Eddy pointed out that most midwives were mothers, and therefore would work for their interest; but the best way to serve the mothers was by having better trained and better educated women to act as midwives—in fact, to raise the status of midwives altogether. The value of having a working midwife on the Board could not be too strongly emphasised, as she is the person who knows exactly where the rules and regulations require alteration, and she is the one who could suggest improvements where necessary.

Mr. Fisher, the business adviser to the Union of Midwives, drew the attention of the meeting to the excessively critical period through which the profession is now passing, the introduction by Lord Wolverhampton, Lord President of the Council, of the Bill which is supposed to be a reform of the existing Act, and the apathy of the rank and file of the midwifery profession to the importance of these things. He suggested that we should at once form a Parliamentary Committee to deal with Lord Wolverhampton's Bill, and the following midwives were appointed to serve on that Committee: Mrs. Lawson, President of the National Association, Miss Webb, Mrs. Eddy, Mrs. Carnegie Williams, Mrs. Gilroy, and Miss Macdonald.

The following resolution was then passed by the meeting:—"That this meeting of midwives assembled in London on the 29th of April, 1910, pledges itself to offer the most strenuous opposition to the Bill recently introduced into the House of Lords by the Lord President of the Council in deliberately ignoring the claims of midwives to adequate direct representation on the Central Midwives' Board, and calls on all members of Parliament to support the claims of registered and qualified midwives for direct representation."

V. B. M.

To help to defray its initial expenses, the 1910 Union of Midwives organised a musical entertainment which was held at the Cavendish Rooms, W., on Thursday, April 28th, when Mr. George Clancy's Pierrots were in charge of the programme. As there was a full room, and all the refreshments were given by members of the Committee, we hope there was a substantial balance.

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