

days, instead of 48 hours, in which to notify Local Supervising Authorities of her change of address. This amendment was desired by the Midwives' Institute. The maximum penalty for failure to notify is now to be £2 instead of £5.

In *Clause 12*, which deals with "Reciprocal Treatment of Midwives certified in other parts of His Majesty's Dominions," there are some minor verbal alterations.

The Clause in which the present Bill deviates most from Lord Wolverhampton's Bill is *Clause 17*, which provides for the "Payment of Fees of Medical Practitioners called in on advice of Midwives."

In moving the second reading of the Bill, Lord Beauchamp pointed out that the evidence taken before the Departmental Committee was conclusive that some intervention by the State was necessary to assure the payment of the fee if it could not be obtained from the patient or her relations, and the Local Government Board had expressed a strong opinion in favour of putting this responsibility on Boards of Guardians. That particular provision of the Bill was subjected to severe criticism in the original form. The present Bill contained alterations which he hoped would be a considerable improvement. The payment of fees was not to be considered a ground for any disqualification.

#### NEW CLAUSE.

The Clause now runs as follows:—

17. (1) "Where a duly qualified medical practitioner has been summoned upon the advice of a certified midwife attending a woman in childbirth to render assistance in a case of emergency in pursuance of any rule framed by the Central Midwives' Board, he shall, on complying with the prescribed conditions, be entitled to recover from the Board of Guardians of the Poor Law Union in which the woman resided such fee in respect of his attendance as may be prescribed.

2. "Where any such fees have been paid by a Board of Guardians the amount thereof may, if the Board of Guardians think fit, be recovered summarily as a civil debt from the patient or person liable to provide the patient with medical aid.

3. "Every Board of Guardians shall in each quarter send to every Local Supervising Authority concerned a list of the cases within the area of the Authority in respect of which fees have been paid by the Board of Guardians under this section.

4. "The Local Government Board may make regulations with respect to any matter which under this section is to be prescribed, and as to the manner in which Boards of Guardians are to carry out their powers and duties under this section.

5. "The payment of fees by Boards of Guardians under this section shall not be considered to be parochial relief, alms, or charitable allowance to any person, nor shall any person by reason thereof be deprived of any right or privilege, or be subjected to any disability or disqualification."

The clause as it stands is certainly an improvement on that originally proposed, but the aversion of the respectable poor to any dealings with the Poor Law is so profound that it is to be regretted that Boards of Guardians are still made responsible for these fees instead of the Local Supervising Authorities. In regard to the omission of any

reference to Ireland in the Bill the Lord President pointed out that this Bill was an amending measure, and it was therefore undesirable to introduce any new principle. Lord Ashbourne, the Marquis of Londonderry, and the Earl of Mayo were strongly in favour of the introduction of some amendments affecting Ireland, and Lord Clonbrock intimated that in Committee he would move an amendment with the object of bringing Ireland within the scope of the Bill.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh thought the amendments in the new Bill a great improvement, and was particularly glad to see that the Poor Law taint had to some extent been removed.

#### THE COMMITTEE STAGE.

On Tuesday (July 26th), the House of Lords went into Committee on the Bill, on the motion of Earl Beauchamp. On *Clause 1* (Alteration of Constitution of Central Midwives' Board) Lord Amptill moved to amend sub-section (c), which provides for "two certified midwives to be appointed, one by the Incorporated Midwives' Institute, and one by the Royal British Nurses' Association." He moved to omit "certified midwives" in order to insert "persons, one a midwife," the effect of which was to give two representatives to the Midwives' Institute—one a midwife—and at the same time to present to them their option to appoint a medical representative.

This was agreed to, and Lord Amptill then moved another amendment to the sub-section to give the Royal British Nurses' Association the option of appointing a representative other than a certified midwife.

Lord Lytton supported. He said there was no suggestion that the Association would not appoint a midwife, but they wished to have the option.

Earl Beauchamp opposed the amendment, and said that out of a Board of 14, appointed to deal with midwives, it was not unreasonable that two of the members should be midwives.

The amendment was carried by a majority of six.

Lord Lawrence proposed an amendment to *Clause 7* providing that applications by certified midwives to have their names kept on the Roll should be sent to the Local Supervising Authority, not to the Central Midwives' Board.

But Earl Beauchamp, having pointed out the inconvenience of the procedure when the C.M.B. kept the Roll, the amendment was withdrawn.

Lord Amptill then moved an amendment to give a discretionary power to the Local Supervising Authorities to make grants in aid of the maintenance of midwives; he thought it a necessary corollary to the Bill.

Earl Beauchamp said the amendment would put a large burden on local taxation. It would probably be considered a breach of privilege in another place.

Lord Amptill also desired to make the Local Supervising Authority responsible for the fees of medical practitioners called in on the advice of midwives instead of the Guardians, but Earl Beauchamp said this raised a very big question, namely, whether free medical assistance should be given to women in childbirth on a very small Bill. If the amendment were carried, the Bill would be dropped.

The amendment was negatived.

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