

and shall be published at such intervals, not exceeding five years, as the Minister of Health may approve.

"(2) The Central Midwives Board may from time to time by registered letter addressed to any woman whose name is included in the roll of midwives at her address as appearing therein, inquire of her whether she has ceased practice or has changed her residence; and if within a period of six months from the sending of such a letter no answer is received thereto, the Board may erase the name of that person from the roll, but without prejudice to the power of the Board subsequently to restore the name to the roll if it appears proper so to do."

SIR KINGSLEY WOOD said that the real object of the Clause was, if possible, to keep the Midwives' Roll up to date. The Roll contained at the present time some 70,000 names, but there were really only about 14,000 persons actively pursuing this profession. The whole of this tremendous list had to be published once a year, and it was a great expense. They were now trying to modify that expense by providing that the obligation should not be put upon the authority so far as the long list of persons who are not habitually practising as midwives is concerned.

The question that Clause 3 stand part of the Bill was then put and negatived. At a later stage in the proceedings the new Clause proposed by SIR KINGSLEY WOOD was substituted.

#### CLAUSE 4.

The question that Clause 4, which provides for the application of the Midwives Acts, 1902 and 1918 to male midwives (to which reference has already been made in connection with Clause 1) should stand part of the Bill, was then put and negatived.

### PART II.

#### Registration of Maternity Homes.

The second part of the Bill provides for the Registration of Maternity Homes, and Clause 5 of the Bill (subsection (2)) provides that:—

"Application for registration shall be made to the Local Supervising Authority in writing in the form prescribed by the Minister of Health."

This was the Clause concerning which there was a sharp division of opinion. The Local Supervising Authorities are the County and County Borough Councils, which are at the present time the authorities which supervise midwives.

SIR DOUGLAS NEWTON, K.B.E. (Cambridge, U.), moved "in subsection (2) to leave out the word 'supervising,'" and as a consequential amendment to insert in subsection (2) the following words:—

"In this part of this Act 'local authority' means,—

- (a) as regards a county borough the council of that borough;
- (b) as regards a non-county borough or urban district the council of which is an authority for the purposes of The Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918, that council;
- (c) as regards any other area the county council.

SIR KINGSLEY WOOD said he wanted very forcibly to oppose the suggestion. One of the reasons he gave for so doing was that it would be greatly resented by the midwives of the country, who have to carry on a very important work, and who are already inspected very much indeed. He reminded the Committee that there was already, under the County Councils and the County Borough Councils, the necessary machinery to administer the Act, and said that the Ministry of Health attached the greatest importance to this Amendment being defeated. They regarded Clause 5 as a critical clause in the Bill, and could not say how far they would be able to support it if this Amendment were carried.

The debate on this Clause was not concluded on April 20th, when the Committee adjourned, and was continued on April 22nd.

When the question was put: "That the word proposed to be left out (*i.e.*, 'Supervising') stand part of the Clause," a division was claimed, when the Ayes (for the retention of the word "Supervising") were 25, and the Noes (for Sir Douglas Newton's amendment) were 8. There was no doubt that the "Ayes had it."

The other points of principal interest were the addition of a new Clause providing for the inspection as well as the registration of Maternity Homes, and for the inspection of any records required to be kept in accordance with the provisions of the Act, and a new Clause giving the Central Midwives' Board power to frame a Rule as to the wearing of Badges by Certified Midwives, and as to the circumstances under which these must be surrendered.

Lastly, the title of the Bill was altered, by the addition of the words "and inspection" after "registration." The title of the Bill now therefore reads:—

"To amend the Midwives' Act, 1902 and 1918, and to provide for the Registration and Inspection of Maternity Homes, and for purposes connected therewith."

The Bill, as amended, was ordered to be reported to the House, and was read a third time in the House of Commons on April 27th.

#### CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

At a meeting of the Central Midwives' Board held on March 31, Sir Francis Champneys, Bart., F.R.C.P., in the chair, the following nominations as members of the Board for a period of one year from April 1st, 1926, were received:—

(a) By the Minister of Health: Dr. Marguerite Alice Christian Douglas-Drummond, Miss Edith Greaves, Miss Olive Haydon, and Dr. F. N. Kay Menzies.

(b) By the Royal College of Surgeons: Dr. W. S. A. Griffith.

(c) By the Society of Apothecaries of London: Mr. C. Sangster, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

A letter was received from the Ministry of Health suggesting that the alterations in the Rules which have been submitted should be deferred until July 1st. The Central Midwives' Board agreed to this proposal.

The applications of Midwives Daisy Louisa Ford (No. 53723) and Ivy Muriel Robertson (No. 42233) for approval as teachers were granted and those of Midwives Elizabeth Annie Cook (No. 49643), Florence Dronfield (No. 60329), and Harriet Webster (No. 50002) subject to conditions.

The case of a candidate for examination who submitted a certificate of baptism which had been tampered with was considered, and the Board resolved that the candidate having, by a falsified Certificate, endeavoured to take advantage of being examined under the old Rules, be required to undergo the full training prescribed by the new Rules.

#### CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD FOR SCOTLAND.

At a special meeting of the Central Midwives' Board for Scotland for the hearing of Penal Cases two midwives were removed from the Roll, and their certificates cancelled, and in a third case the Board considered the charges proved but postponed sentence for six months in order to give the midwife an opportunity of proving amendment.

#### QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

Sir Samuel Scott, presiding at the Annual Meeting of Governors and Subscribers of Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital on April 25th, stated that there were only 700 beds for Maternity patients in the Voluntary Hospitals of London, with its population of millions. More beds were urgently needed at Queen Charlotte's Hospital which constantly had to refuse applicants owing to lack of accommodation.

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