

Mr. Hasting's Bill, to apply to England and Scotland, as introduced last session, proposed to place the duty of notification primarily on the medical attendant, the occupier being bound to give notice in the event of no medical man being called in. In his Bill as brought in this session, he adopts the dual system of notification, that is, the householder and the medical attendant are to notify direct to the local authority. The diseases included, the fees payable to medical men, and the penalty attached are similar to those of the Local Government Board. [This Bill was shelved by a count out since the above date.] \* \* \*

The British Medical Association now numbers about 10,000 members, and its *Journal*, as edited by Mr. Hart, fairly represents the views, opinions, and feelings of a very large proportion of the profession. Mr. Hart is Chairman of the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the Association, and by his ability, personal character, and special experience in medico-legal affairs, he has obtained the confidence of the profession, and his views may be taken as fairly representative.

In 1876 the Registration of Disease Committee recommended compulsory notification on the householder, and not upon the medical attendant, in the first instance; and again in 1879, 1880, and 1881, Mr. Hart submitted to the Parliamentary Bills Committee very interesting and exhaustive reports on the subject. In 1879 the Committee resolved in favor of the now well known "Hart's Model Clause." This provides compulsory notification on the householder, the medical attendant being bound to furnish a properly filled up certificate to the householder, who is bound under penalty to forward it forthwith to the Local Authority. The fee to the medical attendant is 2s. 6d. for each certificate, with a limitation as to cases of the same disease occurring in the same building within thirty days of the date of the first certificate. There is no penalty attached to the medical attendant's obligations. \* \* \*

Mr. Hart, in his reports, admits that his model clause has not found favor with Local Authorities, or with the Local Government Board. It has been adopted to some extent in Nottingham, Norwich, and Bradford, but nowhere else. The public authorities and Committees of the House of Commons have evinced a decided preference for the scheme of the Local Government Board. The reasons are obvious. Parliament apparently insists that a penalty shall attach to the legal obligation to notify, and this with the view of controlling any "black sheep" who may be in the profession; and local authorities seem to be generally of opinion that the householder, if left to transmit the certificate, would, in many instances, cause dangerous and unnecessary delay, and, probably where his interest was involved, he might attempt to evade his responsibility \* \* \*

The "Hart Model Clause" may be taken as the system of notification put forward by the medical profession as a body.