

(5). This section shall apply to any child which has issued forth from its mother after the expiration of the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy, whether alive or dead.

(6). Any expenses incurred by a local authority in the execution of this Act shall be paid as part of the expenses of that authority, in the execution of the Acts relating to public health, and in the case of a rural district council shall be paid as general expenses.

It would seem to be better, in this Province, to provide for notification and registration at one and the same time and place. The Act seems to have worked well in Great Britain: It is in force in 195 areas of local government, namely:—

(1). The whole of the administrative county of London, comprising the City of London and the 28 metropolitan boroughs.

(2). 46 County Boroughs.

(3). 46 non-County Boroughs.

(4). 57 Urban Districts.

(5). 17 Rural Districts.

In some instances, prosecutions have taken place under the Act. There is a general feeling that the registration of births should be paid for by the Government, or other authority. The doctor ought to be entitled to a fee. Of course, some trouble must be taken by someone to get the machinery in motion. Dr. Matthew Hay (M.O.H., Aberdeen), says, that when the Act came into force he sent a summary of its provisions to all the medical men and nurses in the town, pointing out what they were called on to do.

"For a time there were omissions, and there are omissions still, but they have been reduced to almost vanishing point. We get from each registrar in the city a return of the births registered with him each week, and these we carefully compare with the notifications we receive. Of course, that information was available for us before, but then as parents are allowed three weeks to register, and generally wait until the last day before doing it, the child might be dead, or might by bad nursing have received irretrievable damage before we heard of the birth had we relied solely on that source.

"Thirty-six hours are allowed under the Act for notification being made, but we allow them a week. When, however, we come across a late notification we send a note to the parent, drawing his attention to the penalty he has rendered himself liable for. In the same way in cases of failure to notify we send a punitive letter to the parent, who is of course the first party mentioned in the Act. The parent who receives such a note generally writes or comes here in fear and trembling to explain that he did not know such a duty was imposed upon him. I point out to them that they are supposed to know the law. The result is that these people speak to their doctor about the trouble they have got into, and saying he should informed them what to do. A doctor naturally does not like to have differences with his patients, and accordingly he makes it a point in all further cases to inform the parent or the nurse of the necessity for notifying the medical officer of the birth and of the penalty to be inflicted for not doing so. In this manner, therefore, the medical men are drilled, and the efficient working of the Act secured.

"What medical men contend is that they receive no fee for notifying. I think they ought to be paid, but of course we have not the making of the law, but only the administration of it."

A REGISTRAR REQUIRED.

Another important point is to charge some one with this duty and appoint him to perform it. A Registrar is required. Sometimes such an official puts things