

Penalty for Wilful Falsification of the Roll.

12. Any person wilfully making or causing to be made any falsification in any matter relating to the roll of midwives shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and shall be liable to be imprisoned with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding twelve months.

Prosecution of Offences.

13. Any offences under this Act punishable on summary conviction may be prosecuted by the local supervising authority.

The expenses of any such prosecution shall be defrayed by the council of the county or county borough in which the prosecution takes place.

Appeal.

14. Where any woman deems herself aggrieved by any determination of any court of summary jurisdiction under this Act, such woman may appeal therefrom to the court of quarter sessions.

Expenses of Local Supervising Authority.

15. Any expenses under this Act payable by the council of a county or county borough shall be defrayed out of the county fund or out of the borough fund or borough rate, as the case may be.

Act not to Apply to Medical Practitioners.

16. Nothing in this Act respecting midwives shall apply to legally qualified medical practitioners.

Extent of Act and Action by English Branch Council.

17. This Act shall not extend to Scotland or Ireland. The General Medical Council shall act by the English Branch Council, which for all purposes of this Act shall occupy the place of the General Medical Council.

Definitions.

18. In this Act—

The term "midwife" means a woman who is certified under this Act unless the context otherwise requires.

"Central Midwives Board" means the Board constituted under this Act for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

Short Title and Commencement.

19. This Act may be cited as the Midwives Act, 1902. It shall, except as otherwise provided by this Act, come into operation on the first day of April one thousand nine hundred and three.

INDIAN HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

HYDERABAD ASSIGNED DISTRICTS.

THE famine interfered with ordinary work. One dispensary was entirely and several partially closed on account of famine demands. On the other hand many relief camps and poor houses were opened where medical aid was given. Accordingly, while the attendance at the 48 regular dispensaries showed a decrease, the amount of medical relief afforded was, on the whole, much greater, taking special efforts and institutions into account. The death-rate among indoor patients was 15.2 per cent. of total treated. There was a decrease in the number of surgical operations in consequence of the famine. Fever, cholera, dysentery and diarrhoea were prevalent in excess, and scurvy was very common. Quinine was sold in pice (5 grain) packets to the amount of Rs.1,797. The finances of these dispensaries are sound. Government contributes 79 per cent. of the expenditure. The report is submitted by Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. Swaine, M.D., and the resolution of the Resident thereon is detailed and sympathetic.

ASSAM.

Colonel Carr Calthorp's report is very brief, and the local Government makes no remarks upon it. Seven new dispensaries were opened during the year, which, together with 6 private institutions, make a total of 128 open at the close of the year. The statistics of police and railway hospitals are shown separately. There was a large increase in the number of patients treated both in-door and out-door; the year was a comparatively healthy one. Malarious fever was less but

cholera in excess. The disease called kala-azar is declining, and the anaemia of coolies gives fewer admissions. The death-rate among indoor patients, 14.04 per cent. of treated, was unprecedentedly low, though still lamentably great. The number of surgical operations increased. Only 23 extractions of lens for cataract were performed, and 12 operations for stone. The income, of which Government contributed 34 per cent., was sufficient to meet the expenditure.

BURMAH.

Three new dispensaries were opened during the year, leaving 113 at work at the close. The attendance of patients was considerably larger, notwithstanding that the year was a comparatively healthy one. The total treated bore a ratio of 10.04 to the population. The death-rate among in-door patients was 8 per cent. There was an increase in the number of surgical operations performed; they included only 26 cataract, and 16 stone cases. The Dufferin Hospital for females at Rangoon is doing good work; 334 confinements were attended, and 24 pupil midwives were under training. Since 1888, 154 midwives have been trained in this institution, 14 of whom are employed by municipalities. The financial statement indicates that income, of which Government gave 22 per cent., more than sufficed to meet expenditure. The report, which is brief but adequate, is submitted by Colonel Little, M.D. The local Government has recorded no resolution upon it.

THE PLAGUE.

PREVALENCE OF THE DISEASE.

INDIA.

THE plague mortality in India during the week ending July 12th amounted to 1,158, being an increase as compared with the previous week, when the number of deaths from plague stood at 1,058. The increase has been most marked in the Bombay Presidency and in the Mysore State. In Bombay City the deaths from plague during the week ending July 12th numbered 22, against 26 during the previous week. In the Bombay Presidency, exclusive of the City, the plague deaths during the week ending July 12th were returned as 717, and in the Mysore State as 392, an increase of 214 on the week ending July 5th. No fresh plague cases or deaths are notified in the North-West Provinces and Oudh. In the Punjab the total plague deaths during the week ending July 12th fell to 95. In Karachi during the same period plague caused 41 deaths. During the week ending July 12th the deaths amounted to 1,100, as against 1,158 during the previous week. In the City of Bombay the cases during the week numbered 43, and the deaths from the disease 35. In the Bombay Presidency (exclusive of the City) 701 deaths from plague occurred; this district is at present by far the most seriously affected in India, and the disease seems increasing in extent. In Karachi during the week ending July 12th the plague cases numbered 23, and the deaths from the disease 19.

EGYPT.

During the week ending July 27th the fresh cases of plague in Egypt numbered 10, all at Alexandria; five deaths, all at Alexandria. Nineteen cases of plague remained under treatment, 16 at Alexandria, 1 at Toukh, and 2 at Damahour. During the week ending August 3rd, 5 fresh cases of plague occurred, 1 at Toukh and 4 at Alexandria. The total number of deaths amounted to 2 only, both at Alexandria, and both deaths took place outside the hospital. The total number of cases under treatment on August 3rd was 13.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

During the week ending July 12th 2 fresh cases of plague were reported from Port Elizabeth and 2 deaths from the disease. There were no fresh cases in Port Elizabeth during the week ending July 12th; 1 death from the disease occurred during the week. Four cases remained under treatment at Port Elizabeth.

HONG KONG.

During the week ending July 26th, 33 fresh cases of plague occurred in Hong Kong, and 29 deaths from the disease. During the week ending August 2nd there were 31 new cases and 34 deaths. During the week ending August 9th there were 14 cases and 13 deaths.

MAURITIUS.

For the week ending July 31st, 6 fresh cases of plague were reported in Mauritius and 5 deaths from the disease. For the week ending August 2nd there were 2 cases, 1 of which proved fatal.

ODESSA.

Up to July 29th 7 cases of plague occurred in Odessa and 1 death from the disease.

CANCER HOSPITAL.—We are informed that a new laboratory is being fitted up at the Cancer Hospital, Fulham Road, with all requisite appliances for investigation, and will shortly be in working order. A pathologist is to be appointed at a salary of £250 a year, who will work in conjunction with, and under the direction of, Mr. H. G. Plimmer, who has been Pathologist for many years to the institution, and who will now become Director of the Laboratory.