Two months' leave to England or the Canaries can be had during the year's tour. Many take advantage of this; others spend their leave in the Protectorate. The source of the River Niger can be reached in seven or eight days from the rail-head, where good shooting is always to be had, as bush-fowl, guinea-fowl, buck, &c., abound in the rice fields. During a trip I had in the bush, numerous leopard traps, set by natives, were seen, and although no leopards were noticed along the route traversed, I was assured that they were to be got, as evidenced by the skins in the villages, which are readily bought by traders. A great number of officers and men spend their leisure in butterfly catching; many valuable specimens are seen in the various collections.

Others add to their linguistic abilities, there being over forty different languages spoken throughout the Colony and Protectorate.

In conclusion, no description of Sierra Leone is complete without the "Coasters chorus," which runs:

Our time on the Coast is getting shorter every day.
Four months' furlough, lodging allowance and pay.
Some are getting six months,—others have to stay,
But our time on the Coast is getting shorter every day.

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Extracts, &c.

AN EPITOME OF THE MIDWIVES ACT, 1902.

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THE MIDWIVES ACT, 1902.

As one of the questions asked at the last examination for the Diploma of Public Health at Cambridge was "Epitomise the Midwives Act, 1902," and a similar question was asked at Oxford a year ago, it has occurred to me that, as this Act has not yet found its way into Hamer, Parkes and Kenwood, Whitelegg, or any of the other standard books, except Robertson and Porter's "Sanitary Law," the following epitome, which I prepared when reading for my D.P.H., might be of interest to readers of the Journal. Apart, however, from candidates for Diplomas in Public Health, the statute has special interest to those of us who are engaged in instructing or examining Army midwives, as some familiarity with the provisions of the Act is essential in order to appreciate the reason for the important amendments to the regulations for the training of Army midwives introduced by Army Order 178, dated October 1st, 1904. The
Midwives Act, 1902, is officially defined as being framed to secure "the better training of midwives, and to regulate their practice." It consists of eighteen sections, which may be briefly referred to seriatim.

Section I.—(1) From and after April 1st, 1905, any woman not certified under this Act who shall use the name of midwife either alone or in combination with any other word or words, or imply by any other title or description that she is a person specially qualified to practise midwifery, or recognised by law as a midwife, shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding £5.

(2) From and after April 1st, 1910, no woman shall habitually and for gain attend women in childbirth otherwise than under the direction of a qualified medical practitioner, unless she be certified. Any uncertified woman so acting shall be liable to a penalty of £10, but the section shall not apply to any one acting in an emergency.

(3) No woman certified under this Act shall employ an unqualified substitute.

(4) Women certified under the Act must not assume any title or designation implying that they are medical practitioners or authorised to grant any medical certificate, or certificate of death or stillbirth, or to undertake cases of abnormality or disease in connection with parturition.

Section II. refers to registration of women between April 1st, 1903, and April 1st, 1905, and is no longer of interest.

Section III. gives to the Lord President of the Council power to form the Central Midwives' Board, which consists of nine persons, four being medical men, and the remainder nurses or lay persons. The four medical members represent the Royal Colleges, the Society of Apothecaries, and the Incorporated Midwives' Institute. The Royal British Nurses' Association, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, and the Association of County Councils, appoint one member each, and the Lord President appoints the two other members, one of whom must be a woman.

The duties and powers of the Board are:—

(1) To frame rules regulating the course of training, the conduct of examinations, the issue of certificates, the supervision and restrictions within due limits, of the practice of midwives, and the conditions under which midwives may be suspended from practice.

(2) To appoint examiners.

(3) To decide upon places where, and the times when, examinations shall be held.

(4) To publish a roll of certified midwives.

(5) To remove for misconduct the name of any woman from the roll, or to restore the name of any woman so removed.

(6) To issue and cancel certificates.

Rules are not valid till approved by the Privy Council.

Section IV. gives a woman aggrieved by any action of the Central Midwives' Board right of appeal to the High Court of Justice within three months of decision appealed against.
Section V. fixes fee for examination or registration at not more than a guinea, and deals with the disposal of money received in fees.

Section VI. enacts that there shall be a roll of midwives.

Section VII. provides for clerical duties of the Board, and makes the roll evidence in all Courts that women therein specified are certified under the Act.

Section VIII. makes County Councils and County Borough Councils local supervising authorities under the Act, and gives them powers to investigate charges of malpractice, negligence and misconduct, and also to suspend midwives from practice if necessary, to prevent spread of infection.

Section IX.—County Councils may delegate these powers to District Councils.

Section X.—Women, before commencing to practise in any area, must give notice in writing to the local supervising authority, and continue to give like notice during the month of January in each year thereafter. Every such notice must contain such particulars as will secure the identification of the person giving it, and omission to give notice, or making, or causing others to make, a false statement in such notice, is an offence under the Act punishable by a penalty of £5.

Section XI.—Any woman procuring, or attempting to secure a certificate by making, or causing to be made, a fraudulent declaration, certificate, or representation, either in writing or otherwise, shall be guilty of misdemeanour, and shall be liable to be imprisoned with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding twelve months.

Section XII.—Similarly 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 liable to a like term of imprisonment with or without hard labour.

Section XIII.—Any offence punishable under this Act may be prosecuted by the local supervising authority, and the expenses of the prosecution shall be a charge against the County or County Borough in which the prosecution takes place.

Section XIV.—Where a woman considers herself aggrieved by any ruling of a Court of Summary Jurisdiction (i.e., Police Court or Court of Petty Sessions) she has right of appeal to Quarter Sessions.

Section XV. deals with method of defraying working expenses of the Act.

Section XVI. provides that nothing in the Act respecting the practice of midwifery shall apply to practitioners registered under the Medical Acts.

Section XVII. provides that the Act shall not extend to Scotland or Ireland.

Section XVIII. enacts, in conclusion, that the term “Midwife” means a woman certified under this Statute, and no other.