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B I L L

TO

Make provision for the medical treatment of children attending Elementary Schools in Ireland, and for other matters incidental thereto. A.D. 1919.

BE it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

- 5 1.—(1) A local authority may, in the prescribed manner and subject to the prescribed conditions,—
- (a) provide for the medical inspection of children immediately before or at the time of or as soon as possible after their admission to an elementary school within the area of the local authority, and on such other occasions as may be prescribed;
- 10 (b) make arrangements for attending to the health and physical condition of children attending any such school; and
- 15 (c) for the purposes aforesaid, encourage and assist the establishment or continuance of voluntary agencies, and associate with themselves representatives of such agencies.
- Provision of medical treatment, &c., for school children by local authorities.

(2) In exercising their powers under this section a local authority shall act in accordance with regulations made by the Local Government Board and approved by the Treasury and the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland.

(3) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as imposing any obligation on a parent to submit his child to medical inspection or treatment, or as authorising a local authority to establish a general domiciliary service of treatment of children by medical practitioners.

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(4) There shall be charged to the parent of every child in respect of any medical treatment provided for that child by a local authority under this Act such an amount, not exceeding the cost of the treatment, as may be determined by the local authority, and in the event of payment not being made by the parent, it shall be the duty of the local authority, unless they are satisfied that the parent is unable by reason of circumstances other than his own default to pay the amount, to require the payment of that amount from that parent, and any such amount may be recovered under the Summary Jurisdiction Acts as a civil debt.

(5) The council of each county and county borough shall be the local authority for the purposes of this Act.

(6) Any expenses incurred by a local authority in the execution of this Act, so far as not otherwise provided for, shall in the case of a county borough council be paid as part of the expenses of the council under the Public Health (Ireland) Acts, 1878 to 1918, and in the case of a county council be paid out of the county fund and raised by means of the poor rate. *An amount not exceeding one half of the expenses certified by the Local Government Board to have been properly incurred by a local authority in the execution of this Act shall be paid to the local authority out of moneys provided by Parliament.*

Interpreta-
tion, short
title, and
construction.

2.—(1) In this Act—

The expression “prescribed” means prescribed by regulations made under this Act;

The expression “parent” includes guardian and every person who is liable to maintain or has the actual custody of any child; and

The expression “elementary school” means—

(a) any national school; and

(b) any school recognised by the Local Government Board as providing efficient elementary education.

(2) This Act may be cited as the Public Health (Medical Treatment of Children) (Ireland) Act, 1919, and shall be construed as one with the Public Health (Ireland) Acts, 1878 to 1918, and may be cited with those Acts as the Public Health (Ireland) Acts, 1878 to 1919.