

Nursing Examination of the British Gynæcological Society.

As we go to press the British Gynæcological Society is holding its second nursing examination, and we hope, in our next issue, to publish the names of the successful candidates. We note with pleasure that in the last (August) number of the quarterly Journal of the Society the names of the successful candidates at the last examination are published, with their certificates of general training. The Society is to be congratulated inasmuch as the principle which it has laid down, that all candidates for its examination must produce evidence of general training, has had the effect of attracting nurses with excellent qualifications to enter for the examination, and all those who gained the certificate of the Society in June held three years' certificates of general training from well-known nurse-training schools.

We should like to submit one suggestion to the consideration of the Council of the Society, namely, that in the case of private nurses their addresses should be published, so that the Fellows may know where nurses who hold their certificate of training may be obtained, and thus may be able most easily to avail themselves of the benefits of the examination which they have inaugurated. Of its need and benefit there is no question. In this connection we may mention that the Matron of an important hospital for women informed us not long ago that when she found it necessary, at times of special pressure, to temporarily augment its nursing staff, she found the large majority of private nurses quite incompetent to nurse even a simple gynæcological case, and that probably two-thirds of them had never passed a female catheter.

It is obviously of great importance to gynæcologists to know where they can obtain nurses skilled in their own specialty, as serious operation cases must run considerable risk if their nurses have had no previous experience in this branch, even though they may hold certificates of general training.

The Passing Bell.

The death, after a few days' illness, of Nurse Pugh Jones, who was engaged in district nursing at Harlech, has occasioned widespread regret, for her devotion to her work, and the kindly sympathy with which it was performed, won for her the affection of the sick whom she nursed and the confidence and admiration of the Nursing Association under which she worked. The funeral took place at Caerdeon Church, when much grief was evinced by those who attended to show the last tokens of respect. Amongst the many wreaths sent was a very beautiful one with an appropriate inscription in Welsh.

The Central Midwives' Board.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, 6, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, S.W., on Sept. 24th, when the following business was transacted:—

1. Dr. Champneys was re-elected Chairman of the Board until the first meeting in the month of April, 1904.

2. A letter was read from the Clerk of the Council, enclosing a sealed copy of the Rules as approved by the Privy Council Aug. 12th, 1903.

3. The Secretary reported that the Rules and Forms were now printed and ready for publication, and were on sale at Messrs. Spottiswoode and Co's., Ltd., 54, Gracechurch Street, E.C., and 5, New Street Square, E.C. Prices: Rules (paper covers), 6d., post free 7d.; (stiff boards), 8d., post free, 9d.; Forms, 1d. each.

4. The Secretary was instructed to complete the registration of the Rules and Forms, so as to preserve the copyright.

5. A letter was read from the Hon. Sec. of the Manchester Southern and Maternity Hospital, enclosing an application for recognition as a training-school for midwives under the regulations of the Board.

The further consideration of the matter was adjourned, and the Secretary was instructed to ascertain meanwhile whether the application of the hospital included a request for the recognition of their certificate as a sufficient qualification under Section 2 of the Act.

6. Applications were read from registered medical practitioners for recognition as teachers under Section C (3) of the Rules.

The Secretary was directed to obtain further particulars from the applicants.

7. Several applications were read from Ladies desiring to be trained as midwives at a nominal fee.

The Secretary was instructed to refer any such applicants to the Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives, 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, whence all information relative to the training and work of midwives might be obtained.

8. It was unanimously resolved, on the motion of Mr. Parker Young, "That the best thanks of the Central Midwives' Board be and are hereby given to the Privy Council for their kindness in placing office accommodation and the use of the Board Room at the disposal of the Board during the time they were without offices."

9. The "Suggestions to County and County Borough Councils" as to the working of the Act (including the delegation of powers) were further considered and amended.

The Secretary was instructed to inform the County Councils that the Suggestions would, when finally approved, be forwarded to any Council desiring a copy.

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