

The Central Midwives' Board.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at 6, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, S.W., on Thursday, April 27th. There were present Dr. Champneys, Miss Paget, Mrs. Latter, Sir William Sinclair, Mr. Fordham, Mr. Parker Young, and Dr. Dakin.

Mr. Parker Young took the chair while the first business, that of the election by ballot of the chairman for the ensuing year, was carried out. The result proved that Dr. Champneys was unanimously elected. Mr. Parker Young then vacated the chair, and in resuming it Dr. Champneys thanked the Board for their unanimous expression of confidence in him, and said he hoped to succeed during the coming year in conducting the business of the Board to their satisfaction.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the election of an Hon. Treasurer in succession to the late Mr. Heywood Johnstone was discussed. Mr. Parker Young proposed that this official be not appointed, and as no one moved an amendment the question lapsed.

Sir William Sinclair gave notice that though the time for the recognition of the certificate of individual training-schools expired on March 31st, he should on a suitable occasion move that that of the Belfast Maternity Hospital be recognised, on the ground that its non-recognition was due to the inertia of the Board, and not the fault of the training-school.

Amongst the correspondence before the Board were letters from the Committees of the British Lying-in Hospital, the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, and the City of London Lying-in Hospital, representing the desirability of holding four instead of three examinations each year. It was decided that this should be done. The first examination was fixed for Tuesday, June 27th, 1905, and subsequent ones in October, January, April, and July.

In relation to a letter from Dr. Kaye, County Medical Officer for the West Riding of Yorkshire, as to the undesirability of ignorant midwives carrying the instruments required under Rule E. 2, it was decided to reply that the Board had no dispensing power.

In regard to an inquiry from Dr. Niven, Medical Officer of Health for Manchester, as to whether it was malpractice for a midwife to introduce her hand into the uterus to detach a placenta, the Chairman expressed the opinion, that under certain circumstances it would be malpractice not to do so. It was agreed that each case must be judged on its merits. A letter was read from the Council of the Association of Poor Law Unions suggesting the reduction from twenty to seven of the number of cases to be delivered as required by Rule C. 1 (1). The applicants were referred to the Rules.

The Financial Statement showed that the Board

had £6,400 on deposit. It was agreed to place another £1,100 on deposit out of the current account, which amounted to £1,983 16s. 4d.

After consideration of applications for certificates, the names of 3,976 women were passed under Section 2 of the Act, and ordered for entry on the Roll.

The total number of midwives now enrolled is 22,207. Of these 12,491 were in *bond-fide* practice prior to July, 1901; 7,442 were admitted on the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society, seven on that of the Royal College of Physicians, and the remainder on the certificate of one of the lying-in hospitals.

The report of the Standing Committee was adopted.

Three certified midwives were cited to appear before the Board on Thursday, May 25th, the Local Supervising Authority having found in each instance that a *prima facie* case of negligence, and in two instances of misconduct had been established.

No action was taken by the Board in the case of a certified midwife, who also carries on the business of a dairy keeper, who was convicted at the Manchester Court of Summary Jurisdiction of the adulteration of milk.

The following medical practitioners were appointed examiners under the Board:—

Dr. Henry Russell Andrews, Dr. William Crump Beatley, Dr. Comyns Berkeley, Dr. Thomas Watts Eden, Dr. J. S. Fairbairn, J. E. Gemmell, Esq., M.B., Cuthbert Lockyer, Esq., F.R.C.S., Dr. Annie McCall, Dr. E. J. MacLean, C. H. Roberts, Esq., F.R.C.S., A. F. Stabb, Esq., M.B., M.R.C.P., Dr. T. G. Stevens, W. C. Swayne, Esq., M.B., Dr. Walter Tate, Dr. Mary Thorne, Dr. A. J. Wallace, H. Williamson, Esq., M.B., Dr. Fothergill, and Dr. Lea.

St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, was approved as a training-school.

A Resolution moved by Miss Paget asking the Midwives' Supervising Sub-Committee of the City of Manchester to inform the Board of the reasons which led them to consider that the application of a midwife for approval for the purposes of signing Forms III. and IV. should not be entertained was carried.

The applications of the Secretary and a member of the office staff for an increase of salary were then considered. The Board acceded to both applications, and as in each instance the sanction of the Privy Council has to be obtained, the Chairman undertook personally to forward the decision of the Board.

Some of the business of the Board being adjourned, it was decided that an adjourned meeting and the next ordinary meeting of the Board should be held on May 19th, and the cases cited to appear before the Board be taken on the 25th.

The meeting then terminated.

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