

## The Association for Promoting the State Registration of Nurses.

In connection with the recently-formed Lay Association for Promoting the State Registration of Nurses a Committee has been formed, with power to add to its number, including the following members:—The Duchess of Montrose, Lady Lonsdale, Lady Acland, the Dowager Lady Dufferin and Ava, Lady Ebrington, Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, Lady Gifford, Lady (Edward) Grey, Lady Loch, the Hon. Mrs. Stanley, the Hon. Lady Thorold, Lady Yarborough, and Mr. H. Pike Pease, M.P.

## The Central Midwives' Board.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at 6, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, S.W., on Friday, May 19th. There were present Dr. Champneys in the chair, Miss Paget, Sir William Sinclair, Mr. Parker Young, and Dr. Dakin.

The correspondence included a letter from the Clerk of the Council transmitting an appeal for extension of time on behalf of a woman whose claim to be certified under Section 2 of the Act was made after March 31st. The Board regretted that, according to the Act, they had no power to grant such extension.

A letter from the Hon. Secretary of the Wandsworth Division Metropolitan Counties Branch B.M.A., inquiring if midwives may legally engage themselves to Homes run for profit by members of the laity. It was decided to pass on to the next business.

A memorial from the Board of Governors and Medical Staff of the Incorporated Maternity Hospital, Belfast, asking the Board to reconsider its decision of March 23rd, 1905, not to approve the hospital's certificate as a qualification under Section 2 of the Act.

As Sir William Sinclair had a resolution down bearing on this subject at a later stage in the proceedings, it was suggested that the consideration of this letter should be postponed until the resolution was taken.

Sir William Sinclair claimed that he was in order in discussing the memorial at the present moment.

The Chairman said he had the right to do so, but it would be very convenient if he would waive it until his resolution was reached. Sir William, however, desired to exercise his right to speak at that moment. He said that the Belfast Maternity Hospital had a right to be recognised. Its request to be so recognised was sent in in good time. In his opinion it was not so recognised because the Board did not do its own work. The consequence was that women who under the Act could have been placed on the Roll had this training-school been recognised, were left out through no fault of their own. The school had complied with the requirements of the Act by making application in good time.

The next letter considered was one from the Clerk of the Breconshire County Council transmitting a Report and Scheme adopted by the Council, and inviting the criticism of the Board upon it. It was agreed that the consideration of this letter be postponed

until members of the Board were in possession of the document.

In regard to an inquiry from the Supervising authority for the West Riding of Yorkshire as to whether the notification of a still-birth in the practice of a midwife within two or three days complied with the requirement of the Act that such notice should be given "as soon as possible," the Board were of opinion that each case must be judged on its merits.

The Financial Statement having been passed, applications for certificates from eighty-two midwives were approved. The total now enrolled are 22,289.

The report of the Examination Committee was next received, and subsequently accepted. The Committee recommended that the following examiners be added to the list:—

*Bristol Centre:* C. E. Purslow, Esq., M.D. *Manchester Centre:* A. Donald, Esq., M.D. *Newcastle Centre:* R. P. R. Lyle, Esq., M.D., R. A. Nesham, Esq., M.R.C.S., C. J. Wright, Esq., M.R.C.S.

It was also recommended that Dr. Champneys be appointed to assist the two examiners selected for the purpose of setting the paper at the first examination, and that a visitor be appointed to each of the provincial centres for the first examination to report to the Board on the manner in which the examination had been conducted, the necessary expenses to be defrayed by the Board.

The Report of the Standing Committee was then received. Amongst the business considered were the case of a certified midwife had up in the Police Court at Worcester for assaulting a man with whom she was living and fined, no action was suggested; the application of a woman to be certified with a communication from the Clerk of the Cardigan County Council stating that she was drunk three times in one week. The Committee considered this "too much." It was recommended that two midwives should be cited to appear to answer charges made against them.

The following were approved as teachers:—Dr. H. R. Andrews, H. W. R. Bencraft, Esq., M.R.C.S., E. G. C. Daniel, Esq., M.B., Miss M. B. Davies, L.R.C.P., Evan Evans, Esq., M.B., S. Lee Potter, Esq., L.R.C.S., Dr. John Wishart, John F. Woodyate, Esq., M.R.C.S., J. H. Pearson Fraser, Esq., B.A., M.B.

Mr. Parker Young protested against the injustice of making candidates come in some instances thirty miles to attend lectures in London owing to the refusal of recognition to teachers in the suburbs.

The report was adopted by the casting vote of the Chairman.

Sir William Sinclair then moved—

"That the resolution of the Board of March 23rd, 1905, refusing the request of the Belfast Maternity Hospital for the recognition of its certificate as an approved qualification under Section 2 of the Midwives' Act be rescinded."

He said the Board was at fault, not the institution. He considered that its Act in refusing the application was an illegal one, and considered it amazing that the Board did not recognise that the case for the institution was clear and right.

He found no seconder, and then left the room assuring the Board that they had not heard the last of the matter.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for June 29th.

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