

called in. He had her removed to the hospital, where she subsequently died of septicæmia.

Miss Swain, a trained nurse and certified midwife, Inspector of Midwives for the County of Suffolk, who is to be congratulated on the way in which she gave her evidence, gave details connected with her inspection work.

The Board directed that the name of Mary Ann Stead should be removed from the Roll and her certificate cancelled.

The next case was that of Harriet Fields, No. 2831, charged with not carrying the proper appliances and antiseptics; further, the patient being ill of not advising that a doctor should be sent for, and of not carrying out other rules of the Board.

The Board directed that the name of Harriet Fields should be removed from the Roll. The Chairman said that she had deliberately neglected to provide herself with antiseptics, and the patient had died of puerperal fever. There were no circumstances in her favour, and she was a danger to the public.

The next case taken was that of Emma Jones, No. 12099 on the Roll. Negligence and misconduct were alleged, no visit having been paid to the patient between November 30th, and December 2nd at 3 p.m., at which time she was found lying in the patient's garden drunk and incapable; a further charge was drunkenness on arrival at the patient's house on two subsequent occasions.

In connection with another case, having undertaken to convey the body of the deceased infant to the churchyard for burial, she was found sitting in a garden drunk and incapable, with the corpse in a box at her side. Evidence was given by Miss Mackenzie, Inspector of Midwives for Warwickshire. The husband of the first patient, who also attended to give evidence, corroborated the charge of drunkenness, and said that on the afternoon of Saturday, December 2nd, the midwife was picked up from a flower bed helplessly drunk. She wanted to go upstairs, but he would not allow her to do so. She came the next day in the same condition, and at first he refused to let her go up, but the missus was crying upstairs for some one to look after the baby, so he let her go up with someone to look after her. She was sober on Monday, but drunk again on Tuesday.

Mrs. Spiers also gave evidence as to the midwife's drunkenness and obscene language.

In the second case it was asserted that Mrs. Jones was given 2s. for the burial of the baby. She had part of a half pint of whiskey, later more, then she put the balance in her pocket and went out. She was found drunk in a garden with the box beside her. The Coroner's jury concerned in the case gave a verdict that she should be deprived of her certificate as she was a chronic drunkard and not to be trusted.

Mrs. Jones' defence, made in writing, was (1) that "the doctor fetched the baby by main force." (2) That her reason for not paying a second visit sooner to Mrs. Newbold was that she was attending new lying-in cases, and her first duty was to them. (3) She was a certified midwife not a servant as well. She objected to house work, and when in uniform could not clean out dirty houses. (4) She had never

been scandalised before in thirty-eight years of practice.

The Board considered the charge of drunkenness proved, and directed that the name of Emma Jones should be struck off the Roll and her certificate cancelled.

The last case heard was that of Emma Whittaker, No. 18,765, charged with negligence both during the confinement of a patient and subsequently. The medical evidence was to the effect that the patient died of septic peritonitis due to want of cleanliness on the part of the midwife. The Board directed that Mrs. Whittaker's name should be struck off the Roll and her certificate cancelled. The meeting to consider the penal cases then terminated.

A special meeting of the Board was then held to consider a letter from the Clerk of the Council relative to the revised rules and to receive the Report of the sub-committee as to new offices.

The Chairman proposed a new rule to the effect that the proper designation of a certified midwife was "certified midwife," and that abbreviations or additions were not permitted. This was passed.

The Rural Midwives' Association.

§ Sir Michael Foster presided on Thursday in last week at the third Annual Meeting of the Rural Midwives' Association at 3, Grosvenor Place, S.W. The applications for training during the course of the year were 280 as against 187 last year. The number of women actually sent for training was 36. There seems, however, to be no great demand for these women when trained, the applications for midwives having only been 29. Lady Norah Hodgson distributed the "nurses' good service certificates," from which it would appear that the term nurse is used indiscriminately for that of midwife. The sooner the public understand that the terms are not interchangeable the better. A paper was read by Mrs. Heywood Johnstone dealing with the training and inspection of midwives and the Registration of nurses.

An Equalized Poor Rate.

The London County Council will shortly make certain recommendations to the Local Government Board concerning the equalisation of rates. It is understood that Mr. Will Crooks, M.P., Chairman of the Poplar Board of Guardians, will move, when these recommendations come before the Council, that the following recommendation be made to the Government: "That a central elected body be established for the administration of the Poor Law over the whole County of London, to which Board shall be transferred the powers and duties now imposed on the Metropolitan Asylums Board, Boards of Guardians, managers of sick asylums and school districts within the Metropolis." Mr. Crooks points out that one effect of this proposal, if adopted, would be to give to a body representing the whole of London control of an equalised poor rate.

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