

Midwifery Notes.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, November 29th. There were present: Dr. Champneys, in the chair, Miss Paget, Miss Wilson, Mrs. Latter, Dr. Dakin, Mr. Parker Young, and Mr. Fordham.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The most important letter received was one from the Privy Council enclosing for the information of the Central Midwives' Board a question asked in the House of Commons by Mr. Bateman Hope on November 21st, relative to the legality of County Councils paying for the training of midwives, and the answer given by Mr. John Burns (President of the Local Government Board) that under certain powers conferred upon them by the Education Act, they could do so after consultation with the Board of Education but not otherwise.

It was agreed on the proposition of Mr. Parker Young to acknowledge the communication, and to place it on record.

RECOMMENDATION OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

The following recommendation of the Standing Committee was adopted: "That Local Supervising Authorities having appointed Inspectors of Midwives be requested to furnish the Board with copies of the rules that have been drawn up for the Inspectors' guidance, and that where no rules have been compiled the Local Supervising Authority be asked whether such rules, if drawn up by the Central Midwives' Board, would be acceptable."

SECRETARY'S REPORT OF OCTOBER EXAMINATION.

The Secretary reported that the total number examined in October was 446, of which number 346 passed. The percentage of failures in those sent up by the training schools was 21.5 by private teachers 22.4. Of the 346 who passed, 168 had informed the Board that they intended to practise as midwives, and 166 that they did not so intend.

In connection with the recent examination, Dr. Swain, of Bristol, reported that a Welsh interpreter employed was found very useful, though the Welsh candidates felt somewhat insulted at being supposed not to understand English. In the case of the failure of Welsh candidates, defective practical knowledge was, as a rule, the cause, not inability to take the examination in English.

Mr. Fordham said that the Association of County Councils had communicated with all the County Councils in Wales in regard to the Welsh question. They seemed to take very little interest in the subject.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

Points of interest in this report were a letter from a certified midwife as to the payment of doctor's fees when called in. The Board informed her that it regretted it had no power to assist her. A letter was read from a certified midwife at Newbury as to difficulties of training there, and Mr. Parker Young is to be congratulated upon the decision of the Board to allow a teacher to be recognised for Newbury. He has fought this point with much pertinacity and courage.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for December 20th. The meeting then terminated.

MIDWIFERY WALL DIAGRAMS

An admirable series of midwifery wall diagrams, by Dr. Victor Bonney, F.R.C.S., has just been published by Messrs. John Wright, of Bristol. The diagrams consist of twenty-four sheets 3 ft. 4 ins. in length, mounted on a nickel head for suspension, and are large enough for the teaching of a class of considerable size. The main divisions covered by them are the Anatomy and Physiology of Pregnancy, Normal Labour, Abnormal Labour, and the Puerperium. The designs are bold, simple, and easily understood, and afford a means for facilitating the teaching of midwives and students of which we think teachers will not be slow to avail themselves. Certainly, a set of these diagrams should be secured by every lying-in hospital for the benefit of the pupils. The figures number 160 in all, and constitute a complete pictorial course in the subject. The cost is 42s. the set, or, mounted on linen, 68s.

Our Foreign Letter.

A REAL HISTORY OF NURSING.



DEAR EDITOR,
—I am glad to be able to send you word that the volume Miss Nutting and I have been collaborating on is now

ready for the printers and is definitely promised for the spring. Putnam's are going to publish it, and promise to have it ready by the time we must leave for Paris. It will probably be in one volume, divided as follows:—

Part I., chapters giving some account of the earliest records relating to the care of the sick in ancient nations, viz., India, Egypt, Greece, Rome, and among the Jews.

Part II. begins with the early church workers, deaconesses, widows, Roman Matrons; has chapters on Early Hospitals; Early Nursing Systems; the Monastic Orders; Nurse Saints of special note; the Military Nursing Orders; The Hôtels Dieu of Paris and Lyons and their Nursing Sisterhoods; The Beguines and many other mediæval Orders; St. Vincent de Paul and the Sisters of Charity; Early English History; Early Canadian Nursing Orders; The Dark Period (18th Century); The Pre-Flidner Efforts and Movements; The Pre-Nightingale Efforts.

Part III. will cover the times, work, and influence of Miss Nightingale and the early American history up to the founding of our first large training schools in 1873. We cannot possibly go any further at present. If Paris did not confront us, and a dozen other changes, we would never have finished it at all, but would just have kept on digging, reading, com-

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