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The Central Midwives' Board.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, February 28th. There were present: Dr. Champneys (in the chair), Miss Wilson, Miss Paget, Mrs. Latter, Sir William Sinclair, Mr. Fordham, and Mr. Parker Young.

The first part of the meeting was held *in camera*, the first business taken when the press was admitted being the reception of the Secretary's report on the February examination. The list of successful candidates has already been published in this journal.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

The Standing Committee reported a letter from Dr. Wheatley, County Medical Officer for Salop, as to the necessity of workhouse nurses holding the Board's certificate. The Committee recommended that Dr. Wheatley be informed that the position of midwives in Poor Law institutions is at present under consideration with the Privy Council and the Local Government Board.

Dr. Niven, M.O.H., Manchester, enquired as to the need of notification of intention to practice by a midwife in the Chorlton Union Hospital.

The Committee recommended that Dr. Niven be informed that a midwife working only under the Medical Superintendent of an institution is not obliged to give notice of intention to practice.

Miss Wilson dissented from this recommendation, and moved as an amendment that the same answer be sent to Dr. Niven as to Dr. Wheatley.

This was carried.

The resignation by Dr. W. J. Gow of his position as one of the Board's examiners was accepted with regret.

The Committee reported that they had under consideration a leaflet distributed to the candidates at the recent examination, advertising the appearance in the *Nursing Times* of February 16th of the correct answers to the questions set. The answers were found to be signed by a medical practitioner approved by the Board as a teacher.

The Committee recommended that the medical practitioner be informed that the "correct answers" should not be published by an approved teacher until after the oral examination.

It appears that this leaflet, headed "Notice to C.M.B. candidates," was handed to candidates as they left the examination. The issue of the paper containing the answers was published in London on February 14th, the oral examination not being held until February 18th.

The Chairman pointed out that whenever published, the words "correct answers" should be in

inverted commas. They might not be correct, and were not published by the authority of the Board.

Sir William Sinclair thought the proceeding very undignified on the part of an approved teacher.

Miss Paget thought the main responsibility for publication rested with the publishers of the paper, Messrs. Macmillan.

Sir William Sinclair proposed, as an amendment, "That note be taken of the teacher's name in view of the revision of the list of approved teachers." This was seconded by Miss Paget, who said that many of the candidates who were presented with the leaflet thought that the announcement it contained was authorised by the Board.

Mr. Parker Young said he should be sorry if the amendment were passed on this occasion. If the offence occurred again the action indicated in it could be taken. Ultimately the Board decided to adopt the recommendation of the Standing Committee.

SALARIES.

An application from the Head Clerk, Miss Hambling, for an increase of salary was considered, and it was agreed that her salary should be raised to £2 10s. per week.

APPROVAL OF EXAMINERS, TEACHER, AND MIDWIFE.

Dr. Stanley Dodd, and Dr. Bellingham Smith were appointed examiners, Dr. Sarah Louise Fraser was approved as a teacher, and Miss Matilda Clarkson (No. 566) was approved for the purpose of signing Forms III. and IV.

The Chairman here vacated the chair, which was taken by the Treasurer, Mr. Fordham.

On his motion, the previous refusal of the Board to approve the Whitechapel Infirmary as a training school for midwives was rescinded, and approval now given. A similar motion by Mr. Parker Young in relation to the Paddington Infirmary found no seconder.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MIDWIVES' ACT.

Mr. Fordham then called attention to certain points upon which the amendment of the Midwives' Act, 1902, was important, and moved:

"That a Sub-Committee be appointed to consider the matter, with a view to laying before the Privy Council a statement of necessary amendments of the Act, and a request that they may be embodied in a Government Bill to be introduced in Parliament during the coming session."

Amongst the amendments Mr. Fordham proposed were, to enforce a penalty in the case of midwives employing uncertified persons as their substitutes, the present clause forbidding this,

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