

The Midwife.

The Central Midwives' Board.

THE PRIVY COUNCIL SANCTION ADDITION TO RULES.

A recent issue of the *London Gazette* contained the following announcement:—"Whereas the Central Midwives Board have submitted to the Privy Council an addition to Rule E. 26 of the Rules of the Board, framed in pursuance of Section 3 of the Midwives' Act, 1902; and whereas it is provided by the said Act that Rules so framed shall be valid only if approved by the Privy Council; now, therefore, their Lordships having taken into consideration the said addition to Rule E. 26, together with a representation of the General Medical Council with respect thereto, are pleased to approve the said addition as set forth in the Schedule hereunto annexed." The Schedule referred to in the foregoing Order is as follows:—
Addition to Rule E. 26.—"Provided that a midwife whose name has been admitted to the roll in virtue of having passed the examination of the Central Midwives Board, or in virtue of a qualification under Section 2 of the Midwives' Act, 1902, acquired by passing an examination in midwifery, may add the words 'by examination' after the words 'certified midwife.'"

THE MONTHLY MEETING.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, June 18th. Dr. Champneys was in the chair.

A letter was read from Mrs. Cullingworth thanking the Chairman and members of the Board for their resolution of sympathy.

REPORT OF PENAL CASES COMMITTEE.

The Secretary reported the death of a midwife against whom a prima facie case had been found by the Local Supervising Authority.

The Penal Cases Committee recommended that four midwives should be cited to appear before the Board, and this was agreed.

The Committee having considered letters from the Town Clerk of Rotherham as to the conviction of a midwife under Section I. (1) of the Notification of Births Act, 1907, recommended that inquiries be made (1) as to who were present at the birth on February 15th, in respect of which the midwife was convicted of failing to notify; (2) as to whether the Local Supervising Authority find a prima facie case within the meaning of Section 8 (2) of the Midwives Act, 1902. Action was accordingly postponed pending enquiry.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

The first business taken was the statement to be submitted to the Privy Council as to the payment of fees of medical practitioners summoned to assist midwives in emergencies. The Committee recommended that the statement as laid

on the table be approved. This was agreed to with a transposition of paragraphs in one instance, and the insertion of a paragraph on page 4. Mr. Parker Young suggested that it had been agreed to deal not only with the difficulties of medical practitioners, but of midwives in obtaining medical assistance when required, and it was agreed to add a memorandum upon the difficulty experienced by midwives in obtaining the attendance of medical practitioners summoned under the rules of the Board in consequence of the absence of provision for the payment of medical practitioners under such circumstances. The recommendation of the Standing Committee that the deputation to the Privy Council consist of all the members of the Board, was adopted, and the Secretary was instructed to ascertain the date convenient to the Lord President, July 14th being mentioned as a suitable date.

THE EARLY SYMPTOMS OF CANCER.

The Chairman then referred to the leaflet on the early symptoms of cancer, which, at the request of the Board, he has drawn up for circulation. It is proposed to send copies to all Local Supervising Authorities, to the recognised training schools for midwives, and to give it to all midwives who hereafter gain the certificate of the Board.

Dr. Champneys said that in the opinion of some people any communication of the kind caused needless anxiety. But many people mistook the early symptoms of cancer for threatening change of life, and there was consequently much unnecessary loss of life for this reason. Every week he saw patients in whom cancer was too far advanced for operative measures to be of any avail, who might have been saved if they had had medical advice earlier. It was therefore most essential that midwives and nurses, who were specially likely to be consulted on the subject, should refrain from giving any opinion, and should urge that a medical practitioner should at once be consulted.

The text of the leaflet, a copy of which may be obtained by sending a stamped envelope to the Secretary of the Central Midwives' Board, Caxton House, London, S.W., is subjoined:—

CANCER OF THE WOMB.

This disease is probably the greatest dread of women.

Unless treated early by removal it always ends in death.

At first it is only in the part attacked, and is not "in the system."

If removed early it can frequently be cured.

Every day, and even every minute, is of importance, and no time at all should be lost.

The earliest symptom is generally a red discharge which does not occur at the proper time for the monthly period. This may be quite slight.

If the womb bleeds on touch this generally means cancer.

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