

L.C.C. Scholarships in Midwifery.

In January, 1909, the London County Council will award six scholarships to students in midwifery of the value of £25 each available, for a six months' course of training at the following institutions: Queen Charlotte's Hospital, the East End Mothers' Lying-in Home, the Clapham Maternity Hospital, the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, Lambeth, and the City of London Lying-in Hospital, City Road, E.C. Fees over and above £25 will be payable by the student.

Candidates must furnish satisfactory evidence as to character, and must be not less than 24 or more than 40 on July 31st, 1909, and must be certified by the Council's medical officer as being in good health. They must be resident at the time of application and award within the area of the Administrative County of London, and must be prepared to satisfy the Council as to their need for pecuniary assistance for the purpose of training as midwives, and must enter into a bond, with sureties, that they intend to practice for two years as midwives among the poor within the area of the Administrative County of London.

Candidates will be required to pass a qualifying examination in writing from dictation and elementary arithmetic, which will take place on Friday, November 13th, 1908.

Preference may be given to candidates who produce evidence of satisfactory training in general nursing, or of practical experience of sick nursing among the poor.

Forms of application for these scholarships may be obtained from the Executive Officer, Education Offices, Victoria Embankment, W.C., and must be returned, filled in, to the same address not later than Saturday, October 17th, 1908.

For full particulars concerning the scholarships awarded by the Council, see "The Scholarships and Training of Teachers Handbook," obtainable from Messrs. King and Son, 2, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W., price 1d., or by post, 3d.

An Important Question.

The current issue of the *British Medical Journal* contains the official report of a special meeting of the Northumberland Division of the North of England Branch of the British Medical Association, held at Alnwick on September 18th. The meeting was convened for the purpose of considering a communication received by Dr. Main from the Secretary of the Northumberland County Nursing Association. Dr. Scott Purves was voted to the chair.

The Secretary then read the following letter received by Dr. Main from the Secretary of the Northumberland County Nursing Association:—

The Executive Committee of the Northumberland County Nursing Association request me to inform you that they have been strongly urged by the Midwives Committee of the County Council to rescind any rule preventing their nurses from acting as midwives to persons unable to afford doctors' fees.

They have replied that they have no rule which prevents their nurses from acting as midwives, but leave this to local committees to settle. They request me to add that they hope the local committees and the local medical men will give the matter their favourable consideration.

The Secretary reported that a meeting of all the medical practitioners in Alnwick had been called to consider its effect upon the services of the midwife stationed at Alnwick under the Northumberland County Nursing Association, who, by the rules of the local committee, was permitted only to attend cases under the care of a medical man. Dr. Main occupied the chair, and the following resolution was carried unanimously and ordered to be sent to the secretary of the local nursing committee:—

"That Rules No. 3 and 4 for the Alnwick maternity nurse should not be altered, and that nurses doing general nursing should not undertake obstetric work."

The meeting considered that as the letter from the Northumberland County Nursing Association involved questions affecting other districts besides Alnwick, a special meeting of the North Northumberland Division of the British Medical Association should be held for the purpose of taking it into consideration, and it was on account of this expression of opinion that the meeting had now been called. After this communication from the Secretary a prolonged discussion followed, in which the difficulties and dangers of the proposed alteration in the present arrangements were commented upon, and finally the following resolution was proposed and carried unanimously:—

"That the members of the North Northumberland Division of the British Medical Association regret their inability to associate themselves with the terms of the letter addressed to Dr. Main by the Northumberland County Nursing Association.

"1. Because of the inadvisability of nurses undertaking the *entire* responsibility of obstetric practice whilst engaged in general nursing.

"Because they consider the law (in the person of the Poor-law medical officer) fully provides for the attendance upon 'persons unable to afford doctors' fees.'

"3. Because they consider themselves both able and willing to administer their own charitable work in the future as in the past."

The Secretary was requested to forward a copy of this resolution to every member in the Division, to the Secretary of the Northumberland County Nursing Association, and to the County Medical Officer of Health for presentation to the Midwives Committee of the County Council.

The Central Midwives' Board.

The next examination of the Central Midwives' Board, in London and the Provinces, will be held on October 23rd, in London at the Examination Hall, Victoria Embankment, W.C., and at Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, and Newcastle-on-Tyne. The oral examination follows a few days later in each case.

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