

The Midwife.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

MONTHLY MEETING.

The Monthly Meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, March 11th.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters were read (1) from the Clerk of the Council informing the Board that Professor Henry Briggs, M.B., F.R.C.S., had been re-appointed as one of the representatives of the Privy Council on the Board for three years ensuing April 1st next; (2) from the Secretary of the R.B.N.A. stating that Mrs. Josephine Latter had been re-elected as its representative for a similar period.

A letter was also received from the Clerk of the Council informing the Board that the Lords of the Council had approved the balance of £2,947 11s. 10d. shown against the Board in the Financial Statement for the year 1914 for the purpose of the Apportionment provided for in Section 5 of the Midwives Act 1902.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was received from the Clerk of the Council transmitting a copy of a letter from the Midwives Institute embodying a resolution passed by the Council of the Institute concerning the appointment by local bodies of unqualified and inexperienced women as Inspectors of Midwives, and enquiring whether the Board has any information justifying the implication conveyed by the resolution.

It was agreed that the Clerk of the Council be informed that the Board has no evidence of the appointment on a large scale of improperly qualified women as Inspectors of Midwives; one such case has recently come before it. The Board understands from one of its number that the resolution of the Midwives' Institute referred to apprehensions in the future rather than to delinquencies in the past. With regard to the future the Board thinks that it is highly advisable that persons who are appointed to supervise others should have received at least the amount of training possessed by those whom they supervise; otherwise their knowledge is almost sure to be insufficient to command the respect which their orders and advice ought to command. On the other hand, it is impossible to maintain that the mere possession of the Board's Certificate guarantees all the qualities desirable in an Inspector of Midwives.

A letter was received from the Medical Officer of Health of South Shields asking the opinion of the Board upon the position of a midwife who delivers a woman on the instructions and in the

absence of a medical practitioner already engaged for the confinement.

The Board considered that as regards the relation of the doctor and midwife to the patient that no harm is done if the patient clearly understands from the doctor that he will not attend the confinement if normal. If the doctor is engaged to attend the confinement *whether normal or abnormal* the midwife is acting as a monthly nurse; if she is engaged to attend the case she is acting as a midwife, and is bound by all the rules of the Board.

Letters were received from two recognised lecturers asking the Board to reconsider its decision not to continue their recognition as lecturers to pupil midwives after March 31st next.

It was agreed that the reply be that the Board regrets any inconvenience which may have been caused to the recognised lecturers; it has acted purely with the object of improving the training of midwives; also to point out that nearly a year's warning was given of its contemplated action.

APPLICATIONS.

The applications of seven midwives for the removal of their names from the Roll on the grounds of old age, ill-health, and inability to comply with the rules, were granted.

RE-APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINERS.

The present examiners were re-appointed for the year ending March 31st, 1916.

REVISION OF LIST OF RECOGNISED TRAINING SCHOOLS.

The Board decided that the Brighton Hospital for Women be removed from the list of Institutions at which midwives may be trained.

The list as amended was then approved for the year ending March 31st, 1916.

REVISION OF LIST OF RECOGNISED LECTURERS AND TRAINERS.

Subject to the removal of certain names the list of recognized lecturers was approved for the year ending March 31st, 1916.

Subject to certain automatic alterations and specific conditions in other instances the lists of registered practitioners and approved midwives for the practical teaching of pupil midwives for the year ending March 31st, 1916, were approved.

APPLICATIONS.

The application of Dr. Robert Townley Slinger, F.R.C.S., for recognition as a teacher was granted, and that of Dr. Walter Bolton Tomson *pro hac vice*.

The application of Miss Eliza Barnes (No. 23295) for approval to undertake the practical training of pupil midwives, was granted.

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