

# The Midwife.

## The Central Midwives Board.

### Report of the Work of the Board for the year ended March 31st, 1953.

WE HAVE BEFORE US another Annual Report of the Central Midwives Board, but this one is of very great significance, because it is now 50 years since the first Midwives Act received the Royal Assent on July 31st, 1902, the first meeting of the Board being held on December 11th, 1902.

It is interesting to take a glance at the first members of the Board who paved the way for Midwifery to become the great profession it is today :—

#### Chairman.

Sir Francis Champneys, Bart., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.

#### Members.

*Appointed by the Lord President of the Council.*

Sir William J. Sinclair, M.D.

*Appointed by the Royal College of Physicians.*

Sir Francis Champneys, Bart., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.

*Appointed by the Royal College of Surgeons.*

J. Ward Cousins, M.D., F.R.C.S.

*Appointed by the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries.*

G. Parker Young, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

*Appointed by the Royal College of Midwives.*

(Formerly the Incorporated Midwives Institute)

Charles J. Cullingworth, M.D., F.R.C.P.

*Appointed by the County Councils Association.*

J. Heywood Johnstone, M.P.

*Appointed by the Queen's Institute of District Nursing.*

(Formerly the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses.)

Dame Rosalind Paget, D.B.E., S.C.M.

*Appointed by the Royal British Nurses Association.*

(This Association ceased to be an Appointing Body in 1921.)

Miss Dorothea Oldham.

#### Midwives Roll.

Section 2 of the Midwives Act, 1902, made provision for the enrolment of existing midwives, both those who held certificates for recognised hospitals and voluntary examining bodies and persons "who had been in *bona fide* practice for at least one year, and who bore a good character." By March, 1905, when the period allowed for the enrolment of existing midwives expired, 22,308 women were enrolled. On March 31st, 1953, the number of midwives on the Roll was 56,678, showing an increase of 1,838 on the preceding year.

#### Penal Cases.

Four penal cases were dealt with during the year under review.

#### Examinations.

Of the total of 4,834 entrants for the First Examination during the year under review, all but 218, and of the 3,114 entrants for the Second Examination, all but 182, were general or sick children's nurses. The corresponding figures for last year were 255 and 264 respectively.

*Midwife Teachers Diploma Examination.*—Non-residential courses of instruction were conducted in London, Birmingham and Manchester. During the year the fourth and fifth residential courses were held at the Midwife Teachers Training College, Kingston-on-Thames.

Part I of the Midwife Teachers Diploma Examination was held in June and November/December, and of 173 candidates, 55 were successful.

Part II was held in July and December, and of 99 entries, 48 were successful.

The Board felt some concern about the low pass rate in this examination, and since the beginning of the year have had under consideration a revision of the requirements for the Diploma, giving particular attention to the type and number of candidates coming forward, the course of preparation for the examination and the examination itself.

#### Honours Lists.

The Board recorded their congratulations to Professor A. A. Moncrieff and Mr. Arnold Walker on the award of the C.B.E. in the Honours Lists during the year.

The Report is a truly interesting document, printed and published by Spottiswoode, Ballantyne & Co., Ltd., 1, New Street Square, London, E.C.4.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD have recently approved certain additional items of uniform which may be worn by state certified midwives. They are as follows :—

A blazer type loose fitting jacket, as an alternative to the more strictly tailored lightweight unlined jacket which is already in use ;

A grey fur felt Beret ;



Trubensised collars and cuffs for the working dress.

The Board have also decided that the midwives' badge in brooch form may be worn on the hat, as an alternative to the badge embroidered on cloth which is worn at the present time.

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