

## The Registration of Midwives.

**I**N order that Nurses may thoroughly understand the nature of the proposed legislation, we give the text of the Midwives' Registration Association, and its suggested scheme for the Registration of Midwives.

*Local Board* should be established in London and other suitable places for the purpose of examining midwives, and for undertaking such other duties as may be assigned to them.

A *Central Board* should be established for the purpose of determining and regulating the course of instruction and the examination of midwives under the direction of the General Medical Council or the Privy Council, of keeping the official register of midwives, and of carrying out such other provisions of the Act as the Act shall specify.

The *Local Supervision of Midwives* should be carried out by the local authorities acting through local medical authorities.

*Finance.*—The expenses of the examinations should be paid out of the fees received from the candidates. The expenses of registration should be paid out of the fees charged for registration. Other expenses should be met by the County Councils.

### THE LOCAL MIDWIVES' BOARDS.

These Boards should consist of the examiners appointed to examine midwives. The appointment of examiners of midwives should be vested in the General Medical Council; and in the event of the General Medical Council failing to appoint examiners, the Privy Council should appoint some other medical body, or itself proceed forthwith to do so.

After the first appointment of examiners, examiners should be appointed for a period of three years. Arrangements should be made by which a certain proportion (preferably one-third) of the examiners should retire annually. Every examiner should, on appointment, nominate a deputy, who should be subject to the approval of the Central Board.

Two examiners, the one local, the other from a distance, should take part in each examination. An examination should not be held at any of the appointed centres unless at least twenty candidates have entered their names for examination. When more than thirty candidates have entered their names additional examiners should be appointed. When the number of candidates is over thirty and does not exceed fifty, the number of additional examiners should be two. When the number of candidates is over fifty and does not exceed seventy the number of additional examiners should be four, and so on in proportion.

When the number of examiners at any examination is insufficient, the Central Board or its Chairman should have power to temporarily appoint additional examiners from amongst those whose names have previously been submitted to and approved of by the General Medical Council.

The Ordinary Meetings of the Local Boards should be held at the same time and place as the *vivâ voce* examinations. The *vivâ voce* examinations held in the provinces should, as nearly as possible, be simultaneous. The London *vivâ voce* examinations should be held in the week following the provincial examinations, so that the meeting of the Central Board may be conveniently attended by the Provincial Members of the Board.

*Duties of the Local Midwives' Board.*—1. To carry out locally the provisions of the Act in respect of the examination of candidates under the Rules of the Central Board.

2. To consider and report on any case of malpraxis, negligence, or misconduct on the part of midwives submitted to them by the Central Board.

3. To make a return to the Central Board after each examination of the names of the successful candidates, and to afford such other information as the Central Board may from time to time require.

4. To make a return to the Central Board of moneys received, and of the expenses incurred, in connection with the local investigation of cases referred to them by the Central Board.

### THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

The Central Board should be exclusively composed of all the acting examiners, who must be registered medical practitioners. The members of the Board should be paid only in their capacity as examiners.

*Note.*—The Midwives' Institute, being the only incorporated body representing the midwives' interests, should have power to nominate to the General Medical Council one or more registered medical practitioners with a view to the appointment of one of them as an examiner.

*Duties of the Central Midwives' Board.*—1. To frame for approval by the General Medical Council the qualifying course of instruction for pupil midwives, and the conditions of admission to examination.

2. To draw up rules for conducting and superintending the examinations.

3. To nominate all examiners (except where otherwise provided for in the Act) for appointment by the General Medical Council.

4. To decide upon the places where, and the times when, examinations should be held, and to select the examiners who should officiate. The Central Board should have power to unite any two or more administrative counties into a local centre,

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