

peral fever, and Mrs. Humphrey Ward supported the movement from the point of view of the public.

The Treasurer of the Society, Mr. A. L. Leon, L.C.C., then made an earnest appeal for financial support, and after votes of thanks had been accorded to Princess Henry for her presence, and to the Archbishop for presiding, the majority of those present adjourned to an adjoining room, where tea was hospitably provided by the ladies of the Executive Committee.

### The Central Midwives' Board.

An adjourned meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the office, 6, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, S.W., on Thursday, November 3rd.

The first items on the Agenda were dealt with *in camera*, and the following information was subsequently communicated to the Press.

1. A letter was read from the Town Clerk of Brighton forwarding extracts from notes taken by the Coroner of Brighton at an inquest held by him on the death of a woman who had been attended in child-birth by Charlotte Bradford, a certified midwife.

After consideration of the evidence the Secretary was directed to write to the midwife, cautioning her as to her future conduct.

2. A letter was read from Dr. Cater, of 260, North End Road, Fulham, forwarding a cutting from the *Fulham Chronicle*, of October 7th, 1904, containing a report of an inquest held by the West London Coroner on an infant whose mother had been attended in child-birth by Eliza Merrels, a non-certified midwife from St. Clement's Maternity Home, Fulham.

After consideration of the evidence, which showed that after the birth the case had been left in charge of a pupil midwife, the Secretary was directed to write to the Matron of the Home calling attention to Rules E 11 and E 17 (c), requiring the strict observance of these rules in future, and requesting that better supervision be exercised by the Home over midwives.

3. A letter was read from Dr. Williams, County Medical Officer, Glamorgan, as to a complaint brought by Dr. D. Evans, of Maesywmmmer, against Elizabeth Bareham, a certified midwife, of the same place.

Resolved that the Board take no further action.

On the admission of the Press, applications for recognition as teachers were considered.

The following medical practitioners were recognised: Dr. Archibald Dunlop Stewart, M.B. (Glasgow), Dr. G. H. S. Daniell (Blandford), Dr. Charles Edward Paterson (Farnborough), Dr. Patrick Joseph O'Brien (Cork), Mr. Charles Henry Thatcher, F.R.C.S. (Edinburgh), Captain A. E. C. Keble, R.A.M.C. (Chatham), Mr. Wilfred Burrell Thomson, M.R.C.S. (Portsmouth), Major R. J. C. Cottell, R.A.M.C. (Woolwich), Dr. Robert J. Paton (Newport), Dr. Mary Eleanor Rooke (Hampstead), Dr. Annie McCall (London), Dr. McCormick (Newport).

Applications of the following midwives for approval under rule C. I. (2) were then considered and approved: Miss Elsie Hall (Camberwell), Miss Mary Jackson (London), Miss E. J. R. Pickles (Wandsworth), Miss Ruth Poulton (Southampton), Miss A. M. M. Tilbury (Leytonstone), Miss Ruth Drakeford (Blandford), Miss Mabel Ella Hobhouse (Bradford-on-Avon), Mrs. Lily Rosina Cooper (London), Miss B. M. E. Bygott (Chatham), Miss A. M. Sharrock (Portsmouth), Miss A. E. Dryland (Woolwich).

### Legal Matters.

#### THREE MONTHS' HARD LABOUR FOR THEFT.

Ada Wilkinson, an elderly woman, described as a nurse, against whom, as we recorded last week, a charge of theft was brought at the Derby Borough Police Court, was on Tuesday, last week, brought up on remand and sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.

The Chief Constable said that so far as the police could trace, the prisoner's last situation was at the Forest Gate Nurses' Home, London; she was only there three weeks, and was discharged on October 18th for drinking. She is very well-known to Scotland Yard. In 1901 she was charged with larceny, and bound over. In December of the same year for stealing gold bracelets she was sentenced to two months' imprisonment. In July, 1902, for stealing an umbrella, she was sentenced at Devon Assizes to six months' hard labour. In December of that year there were two convictions at Worcester where, for stealing gold bracelets, she was sentenced to three months' hard labour on each charge, the terms running concurrently. It seemed that in March last she was in custody in London, and it would appear that her history was not known then, for she had three months for stealing. She has been traced to Nottingham, where she was on October 21st and 22nd.

We hope the public will note that when this woman has fulfilled her sentence there is nothing to prevent her from once more entering their houses as a trained nurse. That she has done so in the past is evident from her record published above. Until we have a Register of Trained Nurses authorised by the State, the public have no guarantee that the women whom they employ as nurses, in the most confidential capacity, are qualified to undertake the work, nor can a woman who has proved herself unworthy of trust be removed from the accredited ranks of her profession, and lastly, there is no means of preventing criminals from posing as nurses, and not only bringing discredit upon an honourable calling, but forming a constant danger to an all-too-trusting public.

#### ASSAULT ON A LUNATIC.

At the instance of the public prosecutor, Ethel Brown was last week charged at Worship Street with striking a lunatic patient at Bethnal House, Cambridge Road. Dr. Mortimer Turnbull and Dr. Kennedy Wills (Medical Superintendent) gave evidence that when the doctors were going their round the defendant, who was acting as a nurse, was seen to strike a patient on the head three times. Subsequent examination disclosed no bruising. The defendant said she lost her temper and was sorry, and was bound over to appear if called upon in twelve months.

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