

they might reasonably expect some assistance from the Board. If the Board merely referred them back to the Act, it would be acting like the Circumlocution Office.

Sir William Sinclair was of opinion that if the gentleman in Monmouthshire was so absurd, the Board need not trouble to answer him.

There was a considerable discussion of the question, in the course of which it was suggested that a medical man who "covered" an unregistered midwife might be liable to be called to account by the General Medical Council; but that this did not concern the Central Midwives' Board, which had no jurisdiction over medical practitioners. The matter concerned two parties—medical men and midwives.

On the motion of Dr. Cullingworth, seconded by Miss Wilson, in regard to the first question involved, the writer of the letter was referred to the Act; and in regard to the second, the Secretary was directed to reply that the Board could not give an authoritative answer, the question involved being largely a legal one, concerning which no decision had yet been pronounced in the High Courts.

The Chairman then read a letter which had been addressed to him by Mrs. Wallace Bruce, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives, pointing out the difficulty and disappointment felt in localities when training-schools for midwives were in process of establishment, because those interested were unable to ascertain definitely what course of training would be approved by the Board and under what conditions recognition would be accorded to them.

The Chairman suggested that it might be well if a sub-committee were appointed to consider the matter and draw up a satisfactory schedule.

Sir William Sinclair, as a matter of principle, objected to the appointment of sub-committees. The Board was too small for the adoption of this course.

Miss Wilson moved that this and other correspondence on the same subject be considered at the next meeting of the Board; this was seconded by Dr. Cullingworth. Sir William Sinclair then moved the previous question. The voting being equal, the Chairman gave his casting vote in favour of Miss Wilson's resolution, which was accordingly carried.

The authorities of the Chorlton Union Infirmary again wrote on the subject of its non-recognition by the Board as a Training-school.

Sir William Sinclair here asked the opinion of the Board as to whether it was a becoming thing for a member of the Board to receive a deputation on subjects which concerned the Board. He had been approached in regard to the Chorlton Union Infirmary. In any case, he should take his own line.

Miss Paget remarked that in that case it did not seem worth while for the Board to discuss the question, and the Chairman, amidst some amusement, said Sir William seemed well able to arrive at a decision for himself.

Sir William Sinclair also brought up the question of the recognition by the Board of a Salvation Army Maternity Hospital as a Training-school for Midwives, while it had decided against the recognition of the University Hospitals of Dundee and Aberdeen. He said he had brought up the matter because, having done so, he would feel at liberty to use letters he had received in relation to it in the public press.

The applications of 1,068 midwives for certificates were then accepted, bringing up the total number enrolled to 10,538.

Dr. Ward Cousins inquired whether the Board proposed to register women who could neither read nor write, and who were therefore unable to fill in the forms required to be filled in by the Local Supervising Authority.

It was the opinion of the Board that it was bound, as the Authority charged with carrying out the Act to put them on the Roll. It would be equally the duty of the local supervising authorities to have them taken off if they did not comply with the regulations prescribed.

Other business on the Agenda was then deferred, and a resolution moved by Miss Wilson was taken.

Miss Wilson moved:—

"That in order to carry out the resolution agreed on at the meeting of the Board on April 28th, it be resolved that the Board take steps forthwith for the appointment of a Registered Medical Woman Inspector."

This was seconded by Dr. Cullingworth.

Miss Wilson explained that she had inserted the words Registered Medical Woman in place of "a trained woman Inspector," because she thought she could in this way meet the objection felt by some of the medical members of the Board.

Sir William Sinclair saw no necessity for the appointment, but, in the case of its being made, wished to know why Miss Wilson proposed to disqualify medical men on account of their sex.

Miss Wilson thought the details of nursing, concerning which inspection was necessary, were best understood by a woman.

Dr. Champneys said he would quite understand this point if it were proposed that a *midwife* should be appointed, but he failed to distinguish the difference in the case of medical men and women.

Sir William Sinclair considered that men would extract more information. Women were jealous of one another.

The latter part of the resolution as eventually carried ran "for the appointment of an Inspector willing to act under the conditions specified in that resolution."

Dr. Cullingworth then moved:—

"That during the consideration of matters having reference to the judicial or penal powers of the Board, or of application for recognition or approval (under Section C of the Rules) on the part of institutions (as training-schools) of medical practitioners (as teachers) or of midwives (entitling them to sign Forms III. and IV., under Rule C 1 (2)), the representatives of the Press shall be required to withdraw."

This was seconded by Miss Paget.

Sir William Sinclair said he was very sorry Dr. Cullingworth had put his name to this resolution. He thought he might have waited until the Press had shown want of judgment. In thirty years of public life he had never known the Press abuse its position. When he read Dr. Cullingworth's resolution on the Agenda, it seemed to him it only needed a few words to complete it, viz.: "and on all other occasions." On what occasions could the Press be admitted at all if this resolution were passed?

Dr. Cullingworth said he had a high regard for the Press. He trusted it wholly. At the same time, duties of an extremely delicate nature were entrusted

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