

The Midwives' Board.

An adjourned meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held on Thursday, February 9th, at the Offices, 6, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, W.

There were present—Dr. Champneys in the chair, Miss Paget, Mrs. Latter, Sir William Sinclair, Mr. Parker Young, and Dr. Cullingworth.

The meeting was preceded by that of the Standing Committee, which presented a Report to the Board.

In relation to the recognition of teachers and training-schools, Sir William Sinclair said that on the Report he would like to say that in his opinion the Board had accepted such unsatisfactory applicants and recognised such unsuitable training-schools that he did not see what principle there was to guide him in these matters. In one application, after several months the Board had come to a decision apparently without a guiding principle. In another the Board had come to a most unsuitable decision.

Dr. Cullingworth said it was unfortunate that at the meeting which considered the latter application the member of the Board having local knowledge was absent.

Sir William Sinclair said that was a useful commentary of his remarks. They had repeatedly been referred to the local supervising authority. It was no answer to say that they had made an unsuitable appointment because they were ignorant of the essential facts.

The Chairman said that the Board was new to its work, but every application was carefully considered, and he thought it made as few mistakes as possible. He moved that the report be now approved. This was seconded by Dr. Cullingworth and carried.

The following institution was recognised as a training-school:—The Hospital for Soldiers' Wives and Children, Devonport. Seven other applications were postponed for inspection or further inquiry.

The following medical practitioners were recognised as teachers:—Major Gerald Cree, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., Dr. John S. Fairbairn, and Dr. Hill.

The following applications of Certified Midwives for approval under Rule C. I. 2 were accepted:—Miss M. J. Atthill, Miss Lily Blackburn, Miss Ellen E. Boast, Mrs. B. A. Ellis, Miss Amy Evans, Miss Anna Hill, Miss E. A. Hodginson, Miss M. M. Knipe, Miss E. Nicholls, Miss E. Olliff, Miss M. E. Partidge, Miss M. B. Welch.

The perennial question of the recognition of Workhouse Infirmarys was then discussed, and the following Resolution, on the motion of Dr. Cullingworth, seconded by Mrs. Latter, was carried:—

"That all Poor Law Institutions before being approved as training-schools be made the subject of investigation and report."

Sir William Sinclair, who said that he compromised with his conscience by agreeing to the recognition of any Poor Law Institutions as Training-Schools proposed that—

"In the case of an application for approval of a Poor Law infirmary for recognition as a Training-School, the Board receive a report from the Chief Visiting Medical Officer, and that the Local Supervising Authority be requested to inspect and send to the Board an independent Report on such institutions."

This was carried.—The meeting was then adjourned until 2.45 on Thursday, February 16th.

Nursing Echoes.

* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses have been much gratified by the unanimous election of two of their number by the House Committee as Governors of this splendid old charity. Not that less could have been done by the Committee in just recognition of the munificent sum of £1,500 lately contributed by the members of the League and their friends to the rebuilding Fund, to be specially used for the new Nurses' Home. The two Hon. Secretaries of the League, Mrs. Matthews *née* West, formerly Matron of the Grove Fever Hospital, and now wife of the Medical Superintendent of the Northern Fever Hospital, Winchmore Hill, and Miss F. Whitley, late Sister of Martha Ward have been selected for this distinction. We feel sure both these ladies will appreciate the honour and responsibility of their position. The League now numbers upwards of 550 trained nurses, certificated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Some steps will sooner or later have to be taken to provide the middle classes, who are ineligible for treatment in charitable institutions, with hospital treatment and nursing within their limited means. In the States and Canada, also in Germany, this economic question has been solved, by the establishment of paying blocks or wards in general and special hospitals. Why cannot this be done in this country? At present thousands of deserving people suffer from the need of some such accommodation.

Mrs. H. Lupton, the hon. secretary of the Leeds and District Nursing Association, gave an interesting and encouraging account of the work carried on during the past year by the Association at the annual meeting. She mentioned that 3,362 patients had been attended, and 76,589 visits had been made by the nurses, at a cost of under 7½d. each. It was greatly to be regretted that the expenditure was still in excess of the income, the deficiency to be met out of capital this year being £227. The staff consisted of twenty district nurses and two superintendents, and in addition a special nurse had been attached to the Public Dispensary. In Hunslet the work had been particularly heavy. But for the use of bicycles the nurses would not have been able to get through so much work, whilst more might be accomplished if free use of trams were

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