

The Central Midwives' Board.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at 6, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, on Thursday, June 29th. Dr. Champneys was in the chair.

The minutes of previous meetings having been read and confirmed, the correspondence was considered, which included memorials from the Committee of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, the Executive Committee of the Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives, and from the Warden and Matron of the Salvation Army Maternity Hospital protesting against the recent decision of the Board to hold four examinations in the year instead of three, and asking the Board to reconsider its decision. On the motion of the Chairman, it was agreed that an answer should be sent that the Board propose to hold a conference with training-school authorities, and bodies concerned in the training of midwives to consider the question.

Letters as to the fees payable to medical men when called in by a midwife in an emergency were considered. One from Dr. A. W. Aldrich, Leyton, who stated that he was called in by a midwife, who said her custom was to pay the fee under such circumstances, the fee usually being half a guinea. Dr. Aldrich objected to the fee as inadequate.

The other letter was from Caroline Edwards, a certified midwife, who stated that the medical practitioners in her neighbourhood had decided to require a fee of not less than £2 2s. when called in by a midwife in an emergency. She pointed out that if the poor had to pay a midwife 10s. to 15s. in the first instance, with the possibility of another £2 2s. if the attendance of a medical practitioner were necessary, they would not employ midwives.

It was decided to reply that the Board had no authority to name any fee.

The Report of the Examination Committee was next received and adopted. The entries for the June examination were as follows:—London, 226; Bristol, 31; Manchester, 45; Newcastle-on-Tyne, 9. Total, 311.

Dr. Robert Boxall and Dr. Alexander Stookes were appointed examiners, Dr. G. E. Herman was appointed visitor at the Bristol Centre, and Sir William Sinclair at the Manchester Centre.

The Report of the Standing Committee was received, and with one exception adopted.

It was decided that five certified midwives against whom charges of negligence, or negligence and misconduct, were preferred should be cited to appear before the Board.

The following applications for approval as training-schools were sanctioned by the Board, one having previously been rejected by the Standing Committee:—The Walton Workhouse of the West Derby Union, the Birkenhead Ladies' Charitable Institution and Maternity Hospital, the Cardiff and District Branch of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Nurses' Institute, the Jessop Hospital for Women, Sheffield.

The following medical practitioners were approved for Recognition as Teachers:—

William Arthur Haslam, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.; Charles Richardson White, Esq., L.R.C.P., L.F.P.S.; Henry Walter Whitley, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Miss Annie Katherine Brooks, Matron of St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, was approved under Rule C. 1 (2) for the purpose of signing forms III. and IV.

The following dates were then fixed for meetings:—

Special meeting for the citation of midwives charged with negligence or misconduct, July 25th.

Ordinary meeting of the Board, July 27th.

Conference with training-school authorities as to the number of examinations it is desirable shall be held in the year, July 29th, at 2.30.

The meeting then terminated.

Progress of State Registration.

A meeting of the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was held on Wednesday at 431, Oxford Street, W., when the Hon. Secretary presented a very satisfactory Report, in which she pointed out the fact that the evidence given before the Select Committee of the House of Commons was overwhelmingly in favour of the principle of State Registration.

Regret was expressed that carefully prepared evidence on Home Hospitals and Nursing Homes by Mrs. Gower, Private Nursing by Miss E. M. Roberts, and Special Hospitals by Miss Helen Todd, had not been called for by the Select Committee, and the hope was expressed that it should be made public through the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

PROGRESS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Another Bill for the Registration of Trained Nurses became law on July 1st, the Connecticut State Legislature having, after a bitter fight, passed the Nurses' Registration Bill. Hearty congratulations to Connecticut nurses, whose triumph will be all the sweeter after a strenuous struggle. What is worth winning is worth war. This makes the tenth State which has granted Registration to nurses in the last three years.

International Affiliation.

The following letter has been received from Miss M. A. Nutting, President of the American Federation of Nurses:—

“Baltimore, U.S.A.,
“May 25th, 1905.

“Miss L. L. Dock, the Hon. Secretary,

“International Council of Nurses.

“My dear Miss Dock,—At the recent meeting of the American Federation of Nurses, held in Washington on Wednesday, May 3rd, the letter from the International Council of Nurses was read, in which we were tendered a cordial invitation to affiliate with that body. By unanimous vote of the members assembled, it was decided that the invitation of the International Council of Nurses to affiliate be accepted, and that we express our appreciation of the opportunity which it presents to enter into relationships with the nurses of other countries.—Believe me, yours faithfully,

“M. A. NUTTING, President.”

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