

It might, however, with equal propriety have been pointed out that the non-medical members of the Board are not there on sufferance; and that each vote has an equal value. Surely a medical education is not required to enable members of the Board to form an opinion on a point of this nature.

On the report of the Examiners, which was against the issue of an official midwifery handbook, Sir William Sinclair gave notice that he should move that such a handbook be prepared.

Some discussion ensued on the request of the Examiners that the Board should consider the question of additional remuneration of Examiners travelling from a distance, which the Chairman pointed out was not in payment of travelling expenses, which were assured, but really compensation for loss of time.

Mr. Fordham, seconded by Mr. Parker Young, proposed that the Report be received, and that the recommendations of the Examiners be considered.

The next business taken was the Report of the Standing Committee. A considerable amount of time was spent on the revision of the rules as recommended by this committee. Eventually this business was left unfinished and deferred to a future meeting. Much of the discussion was on technical points, but important discussion centred round the length of time which a midwife should be required to attend a lying-in woman, Sir William Sinclair, seconded by Mr. Parker Young, advocating a reduction of time from ten to eight days. The majority of the Board, however, held with the Chairman that to sanction the shorter period would be to withdraw a certain amount of safety from the lying-in woman.

In relation to enforcing a standard of general education, Sir William Sinclair pointed out that the present regulation was a dead letter, as it would amount to serious ill-usage if candidates, after incurring the expense of their training, were disqualified on the ground of lack of reasonable elementary education. We refer to this point in our editorial remarks.

Other business which came up in connection with the report of the Standing Committee was a letter from Louisa Russ, a certified midwife, complaining of the detention of her certificate by the Corsham Benefit Nursing Association. Also a letter from the Hon. Secretary, Miss Clutterbuck, explaining the circumstances, which the Chairman explained involved a breach of contract with the Association.

We presume that the certificate in question was sent direct by the Midwives' Board to Miss Russ, in which case she must have handed it over to the Association. The wisdom of such a proceeding is certainly open to question. It was decided to inform Miss Russ and Miss Clutterbuck that the Board considers this is a matter over which it has no control.

Another letter reported was that from Miss J. A. Campbell, a pupil midwife, complaining of the refusal of her teacher, Dr. W. L. Christie, to sign her examination certificates. Also a letter from Dr. Christie detailing the circumstances under which he had declined to sign the certificates.

The Chairman explained that the circumstances were that the pupil did not carry out some of the rules of the institution, which involved the cleaning of grates. He thought Dr. Christie should have been informed that the Board did not consider that he had the right to refuse to sign a pupil's certificates for reasons of this nature, and that it was an abuse of the authority conferred upon him to do so. The Standing Committee, however, recommended that Miss Campbell and Dr. Christie be informed that the matter was one over which the Board had no control, and this view, surely a very feeble one, was endorsed by the Board. Many people will be glad that Dr. Champneys did not allow it to be adopted without a protest.

The following institutions were approved as Training Schools:—The Sheffield Union Hospital, the London Hospital, and the Parish of Nottingham Infirmary.

The following applicants were approved as teachers:—William Fairbank, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.S.A., and Ernest L. Lilley, Esq., M.B., F.R.C.S.

The following midwives were approved for the purpose of signing forms III. and IV.:—Mary Leach, Elizabeth Mackenzie, Elizabeth Locke, M. A. L. E. Stewart, S. A. Moss, G. Baralette, M. E. Williams, A. Parkinson.

It was agreed that the names of midwives on the staff of an approved training school should be removed from the list, and that they should be informed that when signing certificates they should do so as officials of the school.

It was also agreed that the list of approved institutions and teachers be subject to annual revision, in the same manner as that of midwives, and that an annual return of pupils trained be asked for from midwives and institutions.

The Report of the Penal Cases Committee was next received, and on its recommendation it was arranged to call on various midwives for explanations of facts alleged against them, and that Eliza Wheeler and Clara Hill be censured.

The Solicitor having reported that six cases were ready for trial it was agreed that they should be heard at a special meeting of the Board on May 3rd, with any others then ready.

Mr. Parker Young thought that cases should be first considered by the Board and then referred to the Solicitor, instead of being first investigated by the Solicitor and then considered.

The Report of the Penal Cases Committee having been adopted, the Chairman moved that a Committee be appointed to examine the finances of the Board, and the general management of the office. The Chairman, Mr. Parker Young, and Mr. Fordham were nominated to serve upon it, but Mr. Parker Young begged off, saying, although he did not wish to shirk, he already devotes so much time to the work of the Board he could not give any more.

Miss Wilson threw herself into the breach (we believe she and Miss Paget give the greater part of their time to the work of the Board), and the date of the next meeting having been fixed for April 10th the meeting terminated.

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