

## The Central Midwives' Board.

The first meeting of the Central Midwives' Board which has taken place since the Board moved to its new offices at Caxton House, Westminster, was held on Thursday, June 28th. There were present Dr. Champneys in the chair, Miss Paget, Mrs. Latter, Mr. Ward Cousins, Dr. Dakin, Mr. Parker Young and Mr. Fordham.

The most important part of the business was transacted on the Report of the Standing Committee. On its recommendation it was agreed to certify Harriet Williams and Ellen Davies under Section 2 of the Midwives' Act, as they had made application in accordance with the directions of the Local Supervising Authority before March 31st, 1905, and their omission from the Roll was due to a local oversight.

In regard to a letter from Dr. Walford, M.O.H. for Cardiff, as to teaching and examining in Welsh, it was agreed to ask Dr. Walford whether in his opinion the difficulty experienced by certain Welsh candidates in taking their examination in English would be met by the presence of an interpreter at the Oral Examination.

In regard to a letter from a medical officer of health as to the signing of Forms III. and IV. by a medical practitioner who had not personally attended the cases certified for, it was agreed to inquire of the medical man in question whether he had personally supervised all the cases in respect of which he had signed the certificates of attendance on cases, and during the lying-in period, on behalf of a candidate at the June examination.

In connection with the alleged signing of false certificates by a midwife the Board considered that all institutions approved by it should keep a Register of all cases attended by pupil midwives, and this point was referred to the Standing Committee.

In reference to a Memorandum handed to the Lord President during a recent visit to Dublin, urging the holding of the Board's Examinations in Dublin, the Board agreed to inform the Privy Council that this Memorandum had been carefully considered and that it considers that the present position by which the Board is unable to exercise any adequate supervision over midwives practising in Ireland is unsatisfactory. They further considered that as it was now proposed to defray the expenses of an examination in Dublin by a special contribution, that the difficulty might be met by those interested in the matter paying the travelling expenses of candidates to a centre in England. The most interesting point brought out in the discussion on this subject was in connection with a letter from the Registrar of the Coombe Hospital, Dublin. The Board had previously stated that the examination in Dublin might entail expense to the Board which it would not be justified in incurring as Ireland is outside the scope of the Act. The reply to this was that the Irish authorities were willing to arrange the fees of the candidates so as to indemnify the Board against loss. In this connection Mr. G. W. Duncan, Secretary to the Midwives' Board pointed out that the fee being fixed at £1 1s. it would be illegal to charge a higher one. The position is, therefore, that the midwives

are desirous of paying a higher fee but cannot, by Act of Parliament, be allowed to do so.

It was agreed to approve the application of Dr. T. W. Hione as a teacher, and also to approve the following midwives for the purposes of signing Forms III. and IV.: Mabel Constance Eleanor Pullin, Kathleen Chalmers-Francis and Rebecca Annie Thompson.

In connection with the Secretary's Report on the June examination, the following figures were given concerning the 300 successful candidates: Intending to practise midwifery, 190; not intending to practise, 94; doubtful, 9; neglected to answer enquiries, 7.

Dr. Herman's Report, as Visitor to the Manchester examination, was referred to the Standing Committee.

Miss Paget stated that she had received letters from midwives drawing her attention to the circumstances connected with the indictment of a woman for murder. This woman was not a midwife, and had been refused admission to the Roll. Paragraphs were, nevertheless, appearing in the press with such headlines as "Midwife up for Murder!" The midwives she referred to considered this most unfair.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for July 26th and the meeting then terminated.

### EXAMINATION, JUNE 12th, 1906.

#### LIST OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.

A.—Aberigh-Mackay, Frances Lillian, East End Mothers' Home; Anderson, Edith, Belfast Union Maternity Hospital; Anderton, Florence Elizabeth, Royal Infirmary, Bristol; Anderton, Marie, Guy's Institution; Arnold, Henrietta Louisa, Clapham Maternity Hospital; Arnott, Isabella Dixon, Maternity Charity, Plaistow; Atherton, Edith Alice, St. Mary's Hospitals, Manchester; Atkin, Henrietta, Liverpool Lying-in Hospital; Atkinson, Jane, Newcastle-on-Tyne Lying-in Hospital.

B.—Bagnall, Ethel Mary Brookes, City of London Lying-in Hospital; Bailey, Rebecca, Newcastle-on-Tyne Lying-in Hospital; Baker, Clara Perham, H. C. Howard; Bale, Alice Gertrude, General Hospital, Bristol; Barnes, Ethel May, Liverpool Lying-in Hospital; Barnett, Ethel Kate, G. R. Harcourt; Barrett, Emma Susan Maria, Queen Charlotte's Hospital; Baxter, Mary Ellen, F. Rees; Bell, Emma Jane, St. Mary's Hospitals, Manchester; Biles, Harriet Fanny, G. B. Price; Bisset, Mary Jane, H. W. Whitley; Blackmore, Elizabeth Collard, Louise Margaret Hospital, Aldershot; Bligh, Lilian Maud, General Lying-in Hospital; Borlase, Jessie Edith, General Lying-in Hospital; Bothwell, Stella, Queen Charlotte's Hospital; Braddon, Maud Isabel, British Lying-in Hospital; Bradshaw, Mary Ann, St. Mary's Hospitals, Manchester; Brand, Fannie, London Hospital; Brayshaw, Florence, "Regions Beyond," Missionary Union; Brock, Christiana, City of London Lying-in Hospital; Brook, Emma Grace, Sheffield Union Hospital; Buller, Edith Mary, Gloucester District Nursing Society; Burrows, Elizabeth Jane, A. L. Smith.

C.—Campbell, Mary Elizabeth, Belfast Union Maternity Hospital; Candy, Ada Emma, Glasgow

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