

The Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives.

A meeting of the Council of the Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives was held at the Offices of the Association, Dacre House, Dean Farrar Street, S.W., on the 6th November.

Sir Charles E. Schwann, Bart., M.P., presided. The chairman of the Executive Committee, Mrs. Wallace Bruce, made a report of work since the beginning of the year which showed great activity; but it is to be regretted that owing to lack of funds the training of midwives by the Association has had to be undertaken on a much smaller scale than last year. This is an important and practical branch of the work of the Association, and it is very desirable that a training fund should be started which would render it possible to considerably increase the number of midwives trained. Without such a fund it is not within the power of the Committee to organise a definite system of training midwives in any large numbers.

It was announced that H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg had shown her approval of the objects of the Association by again consenting to attend a meeting of the Association, to be held in June, 1907. It is hoped that this meeting will give a fresh impetus to public interest in a work that is of national importance. The Association has the honour of the patronage of Her Majesty the Queen, and the further great advantage of having as President His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Clapham School of Midwifery Examination.

The above Examination took place at the Clapham Maternity Hospital on Oct., 27th, beginning at 9 o'clock, and was completed the same day. The Examination was, as usual, written, *viva voce*, and clinical (in the wards), and the results were obtained by means of marks adjudged by the three examiners in the three separate departments each independently, so that the final success or failure of each examinee depended on the judgment of all three examiners and not upon that of one alone. Of the twenty-two candidates, twenty satisfied the examiners, six passing with honours, *i.e.*, with five-sixths of the maximum number of marks obtainable, and the examiners expressed the opinion that the standard this time was exceptionally high.

There was no failure at the examination of the Central Midwives' Board among those candidates that had passed at the Clapham Examination.

The following are the names of the successful candidates:—Blanche Aldridge, Agnes Brown, Mary Beetham, Anna Chapman, Louisa Dartford, Cecil English, Margaret Farrow, Marian Griffiths, Harriet Gifford, Mrs. Hodding, Grace Hood, Julie Japing, Elizabeth Ker, Aileen Mackay, Jean Macauley, Isabel Smith, Theodora Staunton, Gertrude Wade, Catherine Watney, Constance Watney.

The Central Midwives' Board.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, November 1st. There were present Dr. Champneys in the chair, Miss Wilson, Miss Paget, Dr. Dakin, Mr. Parker Young, and, for part of the time, Sir William Sinclair.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The most important letters considered were one from Dr. W. H. B. Brook, of Lincoln, resigning his position as a recognised teacher under the Board. Dr. Brook stated that he applied for recognition hoping to form a fair sized class; he, however, found that the local educational authorities sent all their candidates to train at Plaistow, and he had only had three applications for instruction, he therefore tendered his resignation. The Board decided to ask Dr. Brook, who it was stated had high qualifications for the position of teacher of midwifery, to retain his position in the hope of forming a class.

A memorial from twelve medical practitioners in Richmond supporting the application of a midwife who held the L.O.S. certificate, but had not applied for recognition before March 31st, 1905, for admission to the Roll, was referred to the Standing Committee.

A letter from the Secretary of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute forwarding the following Resolution passed by the Council of the Institute:—

"That in the opinion of the Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses it would place great difficulties in the way of the working of the Institute for the training and supervision of midwives to be in any way withdrawn from the control of the Central Midwives' Board, as would apparently be done by the exemption suggested in the amendments of the Privy Council to the Board's revised rules."

The reasons given by the Council of the Institute for the resolution are as follows:—

A large number of the Queen's Nurses are drawn from women trained in Poor Law Infirmaries, the training including midwifery training, so that when engaged for district work by the Institute they already hold the Central Midwives' Board certificate. The question of the standard of the midwifery training given in these infirmaries is therefore one which nearly concerns the Institute.

At the present time, the Central Midwives' Board certificate, apart from the examination, is a guarantee of sufficient training as all must have attained the requirements of the Board before examination; but under the proposed amendments, a second standard of training, beyond the control of the Central Midwives' Board, would be established for candidates from Poor Law Infirmaries, and the Board's certificate would for such candidates lose its greatest value.

The Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute would be unable to accept Poor Law Midwives without further investigation as to their training. Incidentally, this limits the employment by the Institute of midwives trained under the Poor Law, and would, in consequence, entail an unnecessary hardship on a very

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