

## THE PRIVY COUNCIL AND THE AMENDED RULES.

The correspondence was then dealt with, the most important letter being one from the Clerk of the Council as to the new Rules. The letter stated that the Lords of the Council had given their careful consideration to the revised Rules made by the Central Midwives' Board, and contained certain amendments that are deemed necessary.

It further stated in relation to Rule D.I., "their Lordships observe that the principal alteration is the omission of the special provision relating to the case of candidates from Poor Law Institutions. This provision was inserted at the instance of the Local Government Board, and they are still of opinion that some such provision is necessary."

The Privy Council also proposed in the interests of public health and in connection with the problem of infant mortality that a rule should be added requiring midwives to notify within forty-eight hours every birth occurring in their practice.

In conclusion, with a view to ensuring sufficient consideration of the amendments to the Draft Rules their Lordships stated their intention of extending the existing Rules for another six months from the date of their expiry on the 12th August next. (An Order continuing the present rules until February 12th, 1907, has since been received by the Central Midwives' Board.)

Dr. Champneys pointed out that the effect of the amendments proposed by the Privy Council would be to take the Poor Law Institutions out of the sphere of the Central Midwives' Board and to place them under the Local Government Board.

Mr. Parker Young expressed surprise at the action of the Privy Council. The letter came as a thunderbolt to him. It seemed to him a retrograde movement. He moved that the letter be referred to the Standing Committee for consideration and report. This was seconded and carried.

## REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

The Standing Committee reported that Dr. E. Walford (M.O.H., Cardiff) had stated in reference to the difficulty experienced by certain Welsh candidates in taking their examination in English that this would be entirely met by the presence of an interpreter at the oral examination.

On the recommendation of the Standing Committee the following medical practitioners were approved as teachers:—J. L. W. Ward Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., J. B. Hurry, Esq. M.D., W. J. Scott, Esq., M.B., B.S., Miss Jane H. Turnbull, M.D., B.S.

The following midwives were approved for the purposes of signing Forms III. and IV.:—Misses A. Butcher, G. J. Whitmee, and Agnes H. Withers.

## RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were then carried:—  
*Moved by Miss Paget:—*

(1) "That the Secretary be requested to send round with the agenda the number of suspensions that have been notified since the last meeting, together with the places notifying, and the reasons given for suspension."

(2) "That the number of suspensions for each year since the passing of the Act be presented to the Board, together with an analysis of places reporting, the number of suspensions to each place, statistics as

to the causes of suspension, and any other matters of importance."

*Moved by the Chairman:—*

(1) "That the Examination Schedule be amended by the addition of a declaration by the candidate of the truth of the four certificates contained therein."

(2) "That it be a condition of approval for the purpose of signing the certificates of attendance on cases and attendance during the lying-in period, that the midwife keep a register of cases, showing the name of the pupil attending each case, and whether delivering or nursing, and that the register be open to inspection at all times by an officer of the Board."

The date of the next meeting of the Board was fixed for October 4th.

## Our Foreign Letter.

## HOW TO FIGHT BLACK PLAGUE.



DEAR MADAM,  
—I notice with appreciation the response of your readers to my letter speaking of the "Black Plague" (by the way I did

not intend to seem to be the author of that phrase; it was first used, I think, by the Editor of *Charities and the Commons*), and am glad to reply to question and comment in their letters. The crusade begun here against venereal disease is being conducted by a society composed of medical men and laymen who devote themselves definitely to reforms. I will send you their printed material. At present I have not any of it at hand. Its origin is recent, and I think is owing to the efforts of an international society through whose efforts a systematic policy of calm and candid teaching of facts is being promoted. France also has a similar society. The Scandinavian countries have taken it up, and university men are teaching their students as they would teach any other branch of natural science. Germany, I believe, has also started educational work. There, the State laws for giving pensions to invalided working-men are unexpectedly proving a great support to this educational propaganda, for it is found that these lesions are frequently at the bottom of invalidism, and, as in the case of tuberculosis, the State insurance administrators are saying, "Instead of continuous sick pensions let us prevent this preventable cause of incapacity."

Here, the Society for Moral Prophylaxis, as it is called (an absurd name, which clearly indicates our false modesty), publishes leaflets, gives lectures, promotes discussion, and tries in that way to bring the subject before the public.

To my belief, the only journal from which it has so far received active moral support has been *Charities and the Commons*, which regards the Black and the White Plagues as factors injuriously affecting the social fabric. *Charities and the Commons* devoted an issue to the subject, and had a number of articles, written by men and women physicians chiefly. Not

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