

The Midwife.

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Editorial.

We have pleasure in announcing that, at the request of a number of midwives amongst our readers, we have decided to devote a definite amount of space each week to midwifery matters, and all articles and news on this subject will appear henceforth in a special supplement now and hereafter entitled *THE MIDWIFE*. There is no doubt that there is need for a definite department in a weekly paper in which articles and items of news of interest to midwives can be presented in a concrete form, and in which those midwives who desire to discuss the best means of associating themselves together for mutual help and protection can have the opportunity of voicing their opinions. Midwives now form a very important part of the community, and with better education and organisation their influence will extend and increase. There are many matters of interest in connection with the work of midwives to which their attention can be conveniently directed in a special organ of their own, and we have therefore pleasure in arranging for this representation of their interests in the weekly press. We may add that the title and contents of *THE MIDWIFE* have been duly copyrighted and that all rights of publication are therefore legally reserved. Also that if we find that our new departure meets with adequate response and support from midwives we are prepared to extend the space allotted to *THE MIDWIFE*.

Central Midwives' Board.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, January 31st.

Amongst the letters read was one from the Clerk of the Hampshire County Council, stating that the Council had revoked, as from the 31st December, 1906 the delegation of their powers and duties under the Midwives' Act, 1902, to the several District Councils.

THE DECEMBER EXAMINATION.

The Secretary reported that of the 208 candidates who presented themselves for examination at the December examination of the Board, 153 satisfied the examiners, and 55 failed, the percentage of failures being thus 26.4.

REPORT OF PENAL CASES COMMITTEE.

The report of the Penal Cases Committee was next

received. The Committee recommended that Adeline Letitia Bellis, No. 11,111, be severely censured on her own admission of having made a false declaration of still-birth. That Sarah Ann Blackledge, No. 6,282, Margaret Kirby, No. 6,127, and Margaret Riding, No. 8,082, be cautioned as to strict observance of the rules of the Board, and that the Local Supervising Authority be asked to furnish a report on the conduct of each of them at the expiration of three months. That four other midwives against whom charges had been made by the Local Supervising Authorities be not cited, but that the Local Supervising Authorities be asked to report more fully. In one of these instances Mr. Parker Young was strongly of opinion that it was a kindness to the midwife to remove her from the Roll. She could neither read nor write, and he thought her right place was to attend as a nurse, under the supervision of a medical practitioner or midwife. He was supported by Mr. Ward Cousins, who said that there were hundreds of midwives who were not capable of performing the duties required of them. The Chairman said that the inspector had reported favourably of the midwife concerned as to the condition of her bag and appliances, and it appeared that so far as she was able she was doing her best. In the case of another midwife, it was recommended that she should be called upon to furnish an explanation of the charges alleged against her. The Committee recommended that, having considered the charges reported against twenty-eight midwives by their respective Local Supervising Authorities, each of them be cited to appear before the Board. The report of the Penal Cases Committee was adopted and it was decided that the Board should meet on March 7th to deal with as many of the cases as possible.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

The Reports of the Standing Committees of December 13th and of January 24th were then received.

In reply to a letter from the Assistant Under-Secretary for Ireland, enquiring on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant whether there would be any objection on the part of the Board to steps being taken to amend the Midwives' Act of the year 1902 so as to enable the Board to hold examinations in Ireland, the Standing Committee reported a resolution and an amendment dealing with this matter, the voting in the Committee on both resolution and amendment being equal. The Board adopted the amendment recommended which was that "the Board realises the difficulties of the extension of the Midwives' Act, 1902, to Ireland, but would look with favour on a new Act for Ireland, framed on the lines of the present Act."

AMENDMENT OF RULES.

Dr. Dakin, Miss Paget and Miss Wilson were

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