

being inoperative for lack of such penalty, to increase the Board by the appointment of two additional members, to give it power of suspension from practice, to charge for its certificate in addition to the examination fee. Mr. Fordham also pointed out that the funds accumulated by the Board were being gradually used up, and it would then have to fall back on the pro rata claim on County and County Borough Councils. Under the present provision for enforcing this claim (Section 5) the Board might be left for some months without any funds, and this section, therefore, needed amendment. He further suggested that the powers of suspension of the Local Super-vising Authorities should be enlarged, that Section 9, by which County Councils might delegate their powers, should be omitted, as this permission had proved disastrous, that provision should be made for the payment of medical practitioners, summoned on the advice of midwives, that provision should be made for remunerating members of the Board for the expenses which they incur. It was unreasonable that they should not at least receive out of pocket expenses. Sir William Sinclair thought the provision for the payment of medical practitioners a difficult question. Why stop at midwifery fees? In relation to the enlargement of the Board, he noticed that midwives were claiming to be represented upon it. It might as well be said that medical students should be represented on the General Medical Council. The Board should be a medical one.

It was agreed that the nomination of the Committee, suggested by Mr. Fordham, should be deferred to the next Board meeting, and his resolution was carried.

The next meeting of the Board was fixed for March 21st.

The Certified Midwives' Defence Union.

A meeting of the Provisional Council appointed to consider the formation of a Certified Midwives' Defence Union was held at 31, Finsbury Square, on Thursday, February 28th. Dr. St. Aubyn Farrer, Chairman and Treasurer, presided, and there was a good attendance of members.

The minutes of the meeting, held at the Midwives' Institute on February 13th, were read and confirmed.

Miss McQueen moved, and Miss Gregory seconded, a resolution that midwifery training schools should be asked to appoint representatives on the Council.

Miss Breay, seconded by Mrs. Huther, moved as an amendment "That any representatives appointed by training schools or societies to act on this Provisional Council shall be certified midwives." This was carried.

It was then agreed, on the motion of Mrs. Huther, seconded by Mrs. M. G. Hodgkins, that the name of the Union should be "The Certified Midwives' Defence Union."

CONSTITUTION.

It was also agreed to recommend the following Constitution to a general meeting of midwives:

OBJECTS.

1. To protect the interests of Registered Midwives.

2. To defend them, or assist in doing so, where questions of professional principle are involved.

CONDITION OF MEMBERSHIP.

Only those are eligible for membership who are on the current Roll of Midwives.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.

The Annual Subscription shall be 10/6, payable on the first of January each year.

[It was also decided that if by January 31st the subscription had not been paid the Secretary should be directed to write for it, when a fine of 1s. should be imposed, and if it was not paid within a fortnight of such reminder, that the membership of the defaulter should lapse.]

OFFICERS.

The officers shall be—

A Chairman.

A Treasurer.

A Secretary.

The Council, to consist of 24 members, with power to add to their number.

POWERS.

The Management of the Certified Midwives' Defence Union shall be vested in the Council.

The Council shall have the power to delegate certain members of its Council to act as Sub-Committees.

Miss Fynes Clinton, proposed by Mrs. Lee, and seconded by Mrs. Huther, and Miss Buchanan, proposed by Mrs. Lee, and seconded by Miss Worral, were added to the Provisional Council, in place of Miss Gregory, and Miss McQueen.

In the course of the meeting the question arose as to whether sanction should be given for the proceedings to be reported. The Chairman put it to the meeting whether this was the wish of those present, and the vote was in favour of allowing the discussion to appear. The Chairman, whose opinion on this point was invited, expressed himself in favour of the decision of the meeting, and reporting was authorised.

A vote of thanks to the midwives of the Royal Maternity Charity for initiating the Union was proposed by Miss Breay, seconded by Miss Forman, and carried unanimously, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

CLAPHAM SCHOOL OF MIDWIFERY.

At the recent examination of the Clapham School of Midwifery, thirteen candidates presented themselves for the examination, which is divided into three sections—written, viva voce, and clinical. Of these, two—Miss Caroline Green (Madras) and Miss Catharine Bone—passed "with honour," i.e., with above 50 marks, 60 being the maximum attainable. Seven "passed"—Miss M. R. Parsons, Mrs. Winifred Hanson, Miss Ellen Beadon, Miss M. Scoresby-Jackson, Miss Elize Therikilsen (Denmark), Miss A. B. Northcott, and Miss Constance Watney—and four "failed," the failures being those who did not obtain two-thirds of the maximum marks. This is an unusually high examination standard and those who gained certificates are to be congratulated.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)