

The Midwife.

The Central Midwives' Board.

PENAL CASES.

Special meetings of the Central Midwives' Board were held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, May 16th, and Friday, May 17th, under the Rules of Procedure to consider charges against 36 midwives. Dr. Champneys presided.

May 16th.

The cases considered on May 16th were as follows:—

Eliza Burgess, 16952. Charges: Negligence in not declining to attend alone in a case of breech presentation in a primipara. Neglecting to enter the case in her register. In another case, in which medical help was sent for of not notifying the Local Supervising Authority. *Decision*: To be severely censured, and report from Local Supervising Authority to be asked for in three months' time.

Elizabeth Barker, 10414, and *Elizabeth Burch*, 10560. Charge: Not declining to attend alone, and not advising that a registered medical practitioner should be sent for in a patient suffering from ruptured perineum. *Decision*: After hearing the explanation of the midwives in their own defence, it was decided that no further action should be taken.

Caroline Emma Fisher, 16267. Charges: Not using or possessing the appliances or antiseptics required. Not keeping a register of cases. Want of cleanliness. *Decision*: Removed from Roll at own request, on signing authorisation.

Elizabeth Ann Long, 1251. Charges: Not declining to attend alone a child suffering from septic infection of the cord; not attending to its cleanliness and comfort; employing an uncertified substitute after the eighth day. Not declining to attend alone in a case of ruptured perineum, or advising that a doctor should be sent for when the patient's condition was unsatisfactory. In the first case the child died, and the jury at the subsequent inquest found that the cause of death was septic poisoning, due to want of knowledge on the part of the parents. They recommended that the midwife should be censured. *Decision*: Censured on first count.

Harriet Cooper, 1394. Charges: Negligence in not sending for medical assistance in two instances, in not carrying out medical directions when a doctor was sent for by the patient's husband. Failure to use antiseptics or to practise disinfection. Not wearing a washable dress, or keeping a Register of cases. Of taking morphia. The case was that in an abnormal labour the doctor had to be called in opposition to the midwife; that in a case of transverse birth the midwife said the child was dead, and made no attempt at resuscitation. It was, however, revived by the

doctor, and is now strong and healthy. *Decision*: Name to be removed from the Roll, and certificate cancelled.

Elizabeth Ann Goodall, 442. Charges: Negligence and misconduct. *Decision*: Name to be removed, and certificate cancelled.

Eliza Bill, 11546. Charges: Intoxication and incapacity at a confinement; uncleanliness. *Decision*: Struck off Roll, and certificate cancelled.

Caroline Cartledge, 5944. Charges: Negligence in not sending for medical assistance in the case of a patient, whose symptoms pointed to septic trouble. Failure to notify the Local Supervising Authority of medical help having been sent for; of discontinuing attendance on a patient who was seriously ill, of attending another case without disinfecting, being well aware that the above mentioned patient was suffering from puerperal fever. *Decision*: Struck off the Roll, and certificate cancelled.

Selina Hitchins, 2178. Charges: Not declining to attend alone in a case of a seriously ruptured perineum; uncleanliness; not carrying appliances and antiseptics; neglecting to keep a Register of cases. *Decision*: Struck off the Roll, and certificate cancelled.

Ann Bamford, 6741. Charges: Not declining to attend alone in a case of puerperal fever; not using the required antiseptics and appliances; uncleanliness. *Decision*: Struck off the Roll, and certificate cancelled.

Mary Brookes, 3052. Charge: Negligence. *Decision*: Severely censured.

Sarah Ann Homer, 6199. Charge: Not declining to attend alone in the case of a patient suffering from severe abdominal pain; swelling, and signs of insufficient contraction of the uterus. The mother and child both died. The midwife had on a former occasion been censured by the Local Supervising Authority. *Decision*: Name to be struck off the Roll, and certificate cancelled.

Caroline Lovatt, 2631. Charge: Not declining to attend alone in a case where the patient was delirious, with a temperature of 102 degrees. The doctor called in stated that the patient was suffering from puerperal mania. There was no septic trouble. The midwife's defence was that the patient had had fourteen visitors, not including children, which accounted for her condition. *Decision*: Censured, and a report from the Local Supervising Authority asked for in three months' time.

Mary Morrall, 20249. Not declining to attend alone a case of puerperal fever. Failure to notify the Local Supervising Authority that medical assistance had been summoned. Uncleanliness. Not possessing the requisite appliances and antiseptics. Dr. Greig, inspector, stated that the midwife used a sponge for washing the genitals of a patient which had previously been used to wash her after a motion. *Decision*: Severely cen-

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