

The Midwife.

The Central Midwives' Board.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, October 31st. Dr. F. H. Champneys was in the chair.

RESOLUTION.

The first business taken was a resolution proposed by Dr. Stanley Atkinson, "That upon all applications for restoration of a name to the Roll the Local Supervising Authority be asked to report as to the desirability of granting the application." This was seconded by Mr. Fordham. The Chairman said that he thought the resolution should rather be worded in the sense that if there were a question of restoring a name to the Roll the Local Supervising Authority should first be consulted as to the advisability of so doing, but obviously in cases in which there was no doubt in the mind of the Board and no question of restoring the name it was unnecessary to take the step suggested.

As Dr. Atkinson pressed the resolution in its original form it was put to the vote, when it was lost.

PAYMENT OF MEDICAL MEN.

Mr. Ward Cousins asked leave to enquire for the President of the College of Surgeons what the Board is doing as to the payment of medical men called in to midwives' cases. The Chairman said that the question would be considered at the next meeting.

REPORT OF THE PENAL CASES COMMITTEE.

The Penal Cases Committee reported that at its meeting on October 22nd, a letter was read from Ita Feldmann, asking the Board to grant her a certificate. The Committee recommended that the request be refused, and this was agreed. Reports made at the request of the Board by various Local Authorities on the conduct of seven midwives previously censured or cautioned for offences against the Rules had been received, and were of a generally favourable character. The Committee having considered the charges made against a midwife, recommended that she be censured, and cautioned as to the strict observance of the Rules of the Board. Miss Paget asked for the details of the case, which were read by the Secretary, including the deposition of the midwife concerned, at the inquest which took place on the death of a patient. Miss Paget thought that before censuring the midwife, which was a very serious matter for her professionally, she should be cited to appear and afforded an opportunity of defending herself. She might then prove deserving of censure, or she might be able to advance evidence in her own defence, but in any case she should have an opportunity of doing so before being censured.

After considerable discussion it was agreed that the midwife should be cited to appear.

The Committee recommended that Sarah Ann Butterworth No. 15847 be censured on her own admission of having failed to explain that medical assistance was necessary in a case of inflammation of the eyes of a child, and that Mary Chalk, No. 11397, previously cautioned in June last, be again cautioned as to the strict observance of the Rules of the Board. This was agreed, and also that the Local Supervising Authority be asked to report as to the conduct of these midwives in three-months' time. It was decided to cite 30 certified midwives, in addition to the one before mentioned, to appear before the Board to answer charges preferred against them.

The Special Penal Boards to consider these cases will be held on December 12th and 13th.

It was also decided that the Secretary be directed to remove the name of Ada Charlotte Chowne from the list of midwives approved by the Board for the purpose of signing Forms III. and IV.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

The Standing Committee reported that letters had been considered from Mrs. E. C. Wickham, Lincoln, asking the Board to certify Louisa Salmon, and E. Knott, under Section 2 of the Midwives' Act, in view of the special circumstances of their cases. The Committee recommended that Louisa Salmon be admitted to the Board's Examination, and that E. Knott be certified in virtue of having been in practice for a year previously to the passing of the Midwives' Act (in which case she would come on as a *bona-fide* midwife), or that she should be admitted to the Board's Examination in virtue of the training she has already received (in this case, of course, her standing on the Roll would be very much better.)

Applications from Margaret Icton, 2847, and Elizabeth Norris for the removal of their names from the Roll on the grounds of old age and ill health were granted.

The Committee reported that a letter had been received from the Duchess of Montrose urging the approval by the Board as a Teacher of Pupil Midwives of Dr. W. Colquhoun, Lecturer in Midwifery at the Govan Cottage Nurses' Training Home. It recommended that the Duchess of Montrose be informed that the inquiries instituted on the subject are not yet completed, and this was agreed.

Applications for approval as teachers were approved from Drs. G. W. Fitzgerald, L. M. Guilding, and W. A. Potts, and from Mr. J. B. Stanley, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

The following midwives were approved for the purpose of signing Forms III. and IV.: Annie Jones and Edith Thrift.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for November 28th.

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