

The Central Midwives' Board.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board's Offices, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, November 28th. Dr. F. H. Champneys was in the chair.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter was read from Dr. L. F. Dods as to Rule E. 26 of the Central Midwives' Board. The rule is as follows:—

"The proper designation of a certified midwife is 'Certified Midwife,' thus, e.g., 'Mary Smith, Certified Midwife.'

"No abbreviation in the form of initial letters is permitted, nor any other description of the qualification."

Dr. Dods pointed out that while the work of certified midwives is controlled and restricted, that of ignorant women practising midwifery under the title of Maternity Nurse is unsupervised. The names of these women are not known to the authorities, and many will not attend the lectures which have been arranged under the authority of the London County Council for midwives and monthly nurses, because they are afraid of becoming known, and a watch being kept upon their work. In reference to the designation of certified midwife as the only one which a midwife might use, an instance was given of a midwife who had complied with this regulation and altered her plate, but the ground landlord, who did not object to the use of her hospital qualification, refused to have the plate with the words "Certified Midwife" on the door. In regard to the first point the Chairman said that the Board had nothing to do with nurses. As regards the ground landlords, many people had to fight their ground landlords. Not long since a medical practitioner was about to take a house in Upper Grosvenor Street, when the ground landlord, the Duke of Westminster, absolutely refused to have his plate on the door. He supposed the Duke did not wish anything useful done in Upper Grosvenor Street. The Secretary also read a letter from the London County Council with reference to a midwife who described herself as a registered and certified midwife. The Chairman said he presumed the word registered referred to the London County Council Register. If a midwife were a nurse as well she had a right to put her nursing certificate on her door-plate.

Miss Paget inquired why a midwife should not put below the words "Certified Midwife" the certificate of her hospital, such as "Cert., Queen Charlotte's Hospital."

The Secretary, Mr. G. W. Duncan, stated that the Queen Charlotte's certificate was a qualification on which a midwife was admitted to the Roll referred to in Rule E. 26, which forbid any other description of the qualification than that of "certified midwife."

Miss Paget referred to the use of the term "Midwife to the Royal Maternity Charity." This the Board did not regard as a "qualification."

Miss Paget pointed out that at present the term "Certified Midwife" might mean merely a bona-

fide midwife, who had received no training, and therefore it was a hardship that a well-trained woman should not be able to mention the certificate of her training-school, but this view did not find favour with the Board.

If the interpretation of Rule E. 26 is that a midwife is forbidden to use the certificate of her hospital, then the sooner this rule is altered the better, but we cannot think that this is the interpretation which should be placed upon it.

PAYMENT OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS CALLED IN TO ATTEND MIDWIVES' CASES.

Mr. Ward Cousins here raised the question of the payment of medical fees in midwives' cases.

The Chairman said there was reason to believe that a circular issued by the Local Government Board to Boards of Guardians was being largely acted on; also that when he had attended with Mr. Fordham and the Secretary at the Privy Council Office the point was brought up.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

The report of the Standing Committee was next received. Amongst the business considered was: 1. A proposal from the Home Secretary to extend the system adopted for reporting convictions of midwives within the area of the London County Council to the whole of the Metropolitan Police District. This was accepted with thanks, and it was agreed to suggest to the Home Secretary that the system might advantageously be extended to the whole of England and Wales.

2. A letter from Dr. W. P. T. Daniel, of 273, Cable Street, London, E., forwarding a copy of a resolution adopted at a meeting of medical men residing in the Parish of St. George's-in-the-East and neighbourhood, declaring their intention not to proceed to any cases of parturition occurring in the parish, on the requisition of a midwife, unless a minimum fee of one guinea is guaranteed either by the Guardians or the Central Midwives' Board. It was agreed to send a copy of the correspondence to the Privy Council, pointing out the difficulties and dangers of the situation.

In connection with a letter from the Clerk of the Worcestershire County Council, it was agreed that Birmingham be constituted one of the Provincial Examination Centres.

The names of twelve midwives were removed from the Roll at their own request.

Dr. J. P. Hedley, Obstetric Tutor and Registrar at St. Thomas's Hospital, and Dr. Eardley Holland, Obstetric Tutor and Registrar at King's College Hospital, were appointed examiners.

The Aston Union Workhouse was recognised as a Training School.

The following Medical Practitioners were recognised as teachers: Miss Rosa E. Bale, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., Dr. W. Fordyce, Dr. F. G. Haworth, Dr. G. F. B. Simpson, Dr. S. H. Smith.

The following midwives were approved for the purposes of signing Forms III. and IV.: A. C. Owens, No. 24620; M. Hardman, No. 23563; M. Ward-Highley; No. 22141; J. Cowper, No. 8056; and E. Kirk Philp, No. 5520.

It was decided to sell out £200 worth of stock in India 3 per cents.

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