

The Midwife.

The Name Plates of Midwives.

The London County Council has notified to midwives under its jurisdiction that its attention has been drawn to the use on name plates, business cards, etc., by certain midwives, practising in the County of London, of initials such as C.M.B., L.C.C., in order to indicate their qualification to engage in midwifery.

It states that such an action constitutes a breach of the rules of the Central Midwives Board, and requests each certified midwife, who has given notice of her intention to practise, to comply forthwith with the Board's rule (No. E 26), which states that the proper designation of a certified midwife is "Certified Midwife," and that no abbreviation in the form of initial letters is permitted, nor any other description of the qualification.

The Council states that should a certified midwife hereafter be found to be disregarding the provisions of the rule in question, it will be compelled to consider as to reporting her to the Central Midwives' Board.

The use of initial letters by certified midwives is clearly prohibited by the Rules of the Central Midwives' Board, and would certainly not be sanctioned by the Board, the majority of members of which are medical practitioners, who would regard the use of such letters as dangerously encroaching on their own prerogatives. The important point about this letter lies in the interpretation placed by the L.C.C. on the words "*nor any other description of the qualification.*"

If this is held to mean that a midwife may not notify on her name-plate, in addition to the words "Certified Midwife," the certificate of the hospital at which she was trained she has a justifiable grievance, for at the present time the words "Certified Midwife" do not distinguish her from a woman with no training.

It is in our view a very strained interpretation of the Rule to hold that all midwives are prohibited from notifying the certificates of their training schools on their name plates, because a limited number obtained admission to the Roll by virtue of training school certificates during the period of grace. We regret that this view apparently finds favour with the Midwives' Board. No midwife since the Board instituted its own examination is admitted to the Roll, except on the Board's own certificate, which is, therefore, her qualification.

The Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives.

A meeting convened by the Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives was held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., on Thursday, December 5th. Princess Henry of Battenberg was present, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, President of the Association, presided.

THE SPEECHES.

The Chairman.

The Archbishop said "We are here to join in the discussion of a most important and difficult matter at an anxious juncture, a matter which vitally concerns the poorest and neediest of the population." His Grace then reviewed the position from the passing of the Midwives Act in 1902 to the limit of the period of grace in 1910, after which time only those women who are on the Roll will be able to act as professional Midwives. It was obviously right that the whole question of the training and supply of Midwives should be investigated. Once the need was fully realised, the funds for meeting the need would be forthcoming.

Sir Dyce Duckworth.

Sir Dyce Duckworth, who was the next speaker, said that it was desirable that women of a superior type should take up Midwifery, as distinguished from sick nursing. It was not very desirable to combine the two, though sometimes this had to be done.

The Hon. Lady Acland.

Lady Acland, who was the next speaker, said that, from the point of view of the country districts, she considered it an absolute necessity to combine Nursing and Midwifery. She emphasised the necessity for skilled midwives by giving two instances of the deaths of infants which had occurred within her knowledge in the practice of untrained woman.

Lady Acland considered that, though County Councils did something to assist the training of Midwives, out of the higher education money, that an Exchequer grant was an absolute necessity. A great increase in highly trained Nurse-Midwives was very desirable. The State should pay for the Midwifery training of such Nurses. There must be State assistance in some form, or when 1910 came the County Councils would never have the courage to enforce the Act.

Mr. Wynne Baxter.

Mr. Wynne Baxter, Coroner for the Eastern District of London, spoke of the facts which had come within his knowledge as Coroner for the last twenty years in a district containing the poorest of the poor. A common picture in his

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