

## The Midwife.

### Midwives Certificates.

We draw the attention of midwives to the addition to Rule E 26 which the Central Midwives' Board propose to ask the Privy Council to sanction, which is printed on page 160 of this issue.

This is, no doubt, intended to meet the objections raised by the Midwives' Defence Association and others as to the Board's recent interpretation of the above Rule. It does not meet the needs of the situation, however, inasmuch as it deals merely with a temporary condition. What midwives ask is that they may not be prohibited from using the certificate of the hospital where they received their professional training.

### The Maternity Hospital, Aberdeen.

It is fortunate for the north of Scotland that there is such an excellent training school for midwives as that attached to the Maternity Hospital at Aberdeen, and now that a resident medical officer has been appointed, the teaching if possible, should be still better. All the pupils trained at Aberdeen who went in for the last examination of the Midwives' Board passed and were certified.

### The Irrigation of Infant's Eyes.

Miss Madeline Smith, writing in the *American Journal of Nursing* on the above subject, says:—

A soft fresh towel, some absorbent cotton, sterile medicine dropper, and warm sterile boric solution are all that are necessary. When these are ready and conveniently near, take the baby on the lap. The towel is placed in such a way that it will catch the solution, not allowing it to run into the ear or down the neck.

It is most important in cleansing the eyes to irrigate away from the nose for the obvious reason that some of the superfluous solution may run from one eye to the other. To avoid this always turn the head to the right when irrigating the right eye, and to the left when irrigating the left eye.

After irrigating each eye, sponge around the lids with a little absorbent cotton, preferably damp, so that none of the shreds will adhere.

### The Central Midwives' Board.

#### THE MONTHLY MEETING.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, February 13th. Dr. F. H. Champneys presided.

Dr. J. B. Helier, of Leeds, was appointed an examiner for the Newcastle-on-Tyne Centre.

#### REPORT OF PENAL CASES COMMITTEE.

The request of Helena Zwirn that the Board would consider its decision in removing her from the Roll on the ground that she had received no notice of the hearing was not granted, but it was agreed to inform her that it was open to her to apply for the restoration of her name to the Roll.

The applications of Annie Broomhead and Mary Lewin for restoration to the Roll were refused.

Two midwives were cautioned as to strict observance of the rules, and two cases were adjourned for further enquiry.

It was agreed to cite twenty-six midwives to appear before the Board to answer to various charges, the meeting of the Board for this purpose being fixed for March 26th and 27th, at 2 p.m.

#### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

The report of the Standing Committee was then considered. The first thing reported was that a letter from the Clerk of the Council transmitting a copy of a letter from the Local Government Board enclosing a letter from the Executive Committee of the Rural Midwives' Association, in regard to the training of midwives, and the possibility of the grant of State Aid in respect thereof had been further considered; and that a further letter from the Clerk of the Council transmitting a copy of a Memorandum addressed to the Secretary of State for the Home Department by Canon Dobell on the subject of the supply of midwives in the rural districts was considered at the same time.

#### DOCTORS AND MIDWIVES FRANKLY HOSTILE.

The Committee recommended that a reply drafted by the Chairman be sent to the Privy Council. Considerable discussion arose on this report. A clause referring to the subsidising of midwives by the State ran as follows: "It is certain that in many localities midwives are a necessity, yet it is in these very localities that it is difficult for them to earn a living. It is obviously a matter of great delicacy to subsidise a class of persons who are alleged to be in competition with medical practitioners. The relations between the two vary in various districts. In some they are frankly hostile. The Board is not aware of any districts where medical practitioners and midwives cooperate amicably. They may exist, but the Board is not aware of them."

Mr. Fordham asked if any proof could be pro-

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