

The Midwife.

The Central Midwives' Board.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, S.W., on Thursday, January 16th. Dr. F. H. Champneys presided.

Before the Report of the Standing Committee was considered, Dr. Stanley Atkinson presented a Memorial on behalf of the Midwives' Institute in reference to Rule E. 26 (which deals with the qualification of midwives) and the misconstruction put on this Rule by the London and other Local Supervising Authorities.

[In our issue of December 14th ult., we drew attention to the letter issued by the London County Council to practising midwives under its jurisdiction, notifying them that its attention had been drawn to the use on name plates, business cards, etc., by certain midwives, of initial letters, to indicate their qualification in midwifery, and requesting each practising midwife to comply forthwith with the Central Midwives' 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 controversy at the present time is centred on the interpretation placed on the last Clause of this Rule.]

Dr. Atkinson contended that if these Local Supervising Authorities were not corrected the penal work of the Board would not only be increased, but vainly increased. He moved that the Memorial, copies of which had already been sent to members of the Board, should be referred to the Standing Committee, which had now under consideration a letter from the Midwives' Defence Association on the same question. The Chairman remarked that he thought Dr. Atkinson should qualify "misconstruction" by the word "alleged."

The Secretary reported that he had at one o'clock received letters on the same subject from Queen Charlotte's Hospital, the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, the British Lying-in Hospital, and the City of London Lying-in Hospital.

Miss Paget said she also had received a letter from the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute.

It was agreed to refer the communications to the Standing Committee.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

The Committee reported:—

1. That a deputation from the Guardians and Directors of the Coombe Lying-in Hospital had been received. The Deputation presented a Memorial praying the Board to rescind its resolution of December 19th, removing the name of the Coombe Hospital from the list of recognised training schools. The members of the deputation severally addressed the Committee, and Dr. M.

J. Gibson made application in due form for approval as a teacher.

The Committee having fully considered all the evidence and arguments submitted by the deputation took no action on the Memorial, but recommended that Dr. Gibson be approved as a teacher. This was agreed.

2. On the recommendation of the Committee it was agreed: To inform Dr. W. Arnold Evans, Medical Officer of Health for Bradford, who had written on the subject, that the Board has no power to prohibit advertising by midwives.

3. To inform Dr. W. Colquhoun, of Govan, who had written enquiring the reasons of the Board's refusal to approve him as a teacher, that it is contrary to the practice of the Board to give reasons for its decisions.

The Secretary reported a letter from the Duchess of Montrose and four members of the medical staff of the Govan Training Home on the subject, which were referred to the Standing Committee.

4. To inform a midwife approved by the Board for the purposes of signing Forms III. and IV., who inquired whether her substitute, being a certified midwife, might supervise cases for her during her absence on a holiday, that this might be done, but that the duty and responsibility of signing the certificates remained with the midwife approved by the Board, who must notify the Board at the time of signing.

5. To inform Dr. Stevens, late Master of the Coombe Hospital, Dublin, and his solicitors, who had written asking the Board to reconsider its decision not to accept any certificate signed by him in future, that the Board declined to reconsider its decision.

6. To inform the General Medical Council, which had enquired whether the Board intended to take proceedings against Dr. Stevens and Miss Myerscough that it did not contemplate such proceedings.

APPLICATIONS FOR REMOVAL FROM THE ROLL.

Applications for removal from the Roll from the following midwives were granted:—E. C. Blunt, 2844; A. Cavanagh, 7122; S. Irving, 1236; H. Wright, 1527.

APPROVAL AS TEACHERS.

The following were approved as teachers: Dr. Mildred M. Burgess, Mr. W. Cunliffe, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.

APPROVAL TO SIGN FORMS III. AND IV.

An application from Miss P. Mathieson was granted *pro hac vice*.

THE DECEMBER EXAMINATION.

The Secretary reported that 220 candidates had entered for the December Examination, 32 of whom had failed in a previous examination. Of the 179 who were successful in passing the examination 106 stated that they intended to practise midwifery. Seventy-two did not. The proportion

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)