

The Midwife.

The Central Midwives' Board.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, November 19th, Dr. Champneys presiding.

The Standing Committee reported a letter from a certified midwife as to the exercise by the Local Supervising Authority of its powers of supervision and inspection. The Board decided that no further action should be taken in the matter, as the inquiries complained of in the letters (including, apparently, questions as to whether the patients were married or single women) were not made by an officer of the Local Supervising Authority.

In reference to the application of a certified midwife asking the Board to grant her a voucher in place of her certificate, with the possession of which she had parted under an agreement with her employers, the Board declined to grant a voucher under the circumstances of the case.

Nurses and midwives cannot be too strongly cautioned to be most careful as to the contracts into which they enter, and most assuredly they should never agree to part with original certificates and testimonials under any circumstances whatever.

The Board decided that no action should be taken in respect to the letter from the Clerk of the Derbyshire County Council, suggesting that annual licences to practice as a midwife should be granted to suitable women passing a modified examination.

The greatest evidence for the need for the establishment and maintenance of standards of education is to be found in the constant endeavours made to depreciate them when established. The knowledge required of candidates by the Central Midwives' Board is not more than every woman who assumes the responsibilities of a midwife should possess.

In reply to an inquiry from Dr. Jordan Lloyd, one of the Board's examiners for the Birmingham centre, as to the duty of an examiner when a candidate is seen to be suffering from ulcerating lupus of the face, or other kindred disease, it was agreed to inform Dr. Jordan Lloyd "that under the circumstances of the case it is the duty of the examiner to pass the candidate if she satisfies the test, and to report specially on her physical condition to the Board, who will then consider whether a certificate should be granted her."—Dr. Stanley Atkinson dissented from the second part of the paragraph, which he considered was *ultra vires*, and wished to stop at the word "candidate," but the Chairman said that he was prepared to take the responsibility of such action, as it was no part of the duty of the Board to allow lying-in cases to be poisoned.

It was further agreed "That a caution as to the health of intending candidates be sent to all recognised training schools, recognised teachers, and approved midwives." It would certainly

seem that the efficiency of any training schools, or teachers, accepting for training and presenting for examination, a candidate with the physical disability described leaves much to be desired. Such action must arise from ignorance or carelessness.

The application of Middlesex Hospital for recognition as a training school was adjourned, and it was agreed that Dr. Herman be asked to inspect and to report on the Maternity Department, subject to the consent of the governing body of the Hospital.

The following medical practitioners were approved as teachers:—Dr. Victor Bonney, Dr. Edward Cureton, Dr. John Dodd, Dr. Harold W. Sinclair, Mr. G. F. Smith, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

The following midwives were approved for the purpose of signing Forms III. and IV.:—Margaret Allison, Marian Ancott, Sarah Ekins, Sophia Alice Brockway Cook, Mary Ann Maria Hulett, Clara Sarah Jago; Ellen Lander, Mercy Watkins, Edith Anne Weale, Mary Gibson Whiteford.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for December 17th.

THE OCTOBER EXAMINATION.

The Secretary presented the following analysis of training of the October examination:—

ANALYSIS OF TRAINING. OCTOBER 23RD, 1908.

Training School.	Total.	Passed.	Failed.	Percentage of failures.
LONDON.				
British Lying-in Hosp.	6	6	0	0
City of London Lying-in Hosp. 14	13	1	7	
Clapham Maternity Hosp.....	11	10	1	9
East-End Mothers' Home.....	9	7	2	22.2
General Lying-in Hosp.....	31	31	0	0
Guy's Institution	7	7	0	0
Kensington Union Inf.	2	2	0	0
London Hospital	10	9	1	10
New Hospital for Women	2	2	0	0
"Regions Beyond" Mis- sionary Union	3	3	0	0
Queen Charlotte's Hosp.	31	27	4	13
Salvation Army Maternity Hosp.	12	11	1	8.3
Woolwich Military Families' Hosp.	2	2	0	0
ENGLAND (EXCEPT LONDON).				
Aldershot, Louise Margaret Hosp.	4	3	1	25
Aldershot, Hosp, for Soldiers' Wives	1	1	0	0
Birkenhead Maternity Hosp....	7	7	0	0
Birmingham, Aston Union Workhouse	1	1	0	0
Birmingham, King's Norton Union Inf.	1	1	0	0
Birmingham Maternity Hosp. 15	13	2	13.3	
Birmingham Workhouse Inf... 4	4	0	0	

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