

The Midwife.

The Central Midwives' Board.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held in the Board Room, Caxton House, S.W., on Thursday, April 22nd, this being the first meeting in the new offices.

The first business was the election of the Chairman, and Dr. Champneys was re-elected to the position. The election (if so determined) of an Hon. Treasurer was then considered.

Mr. Parker Young inquired whether it was necessary to go on with this farce. It appeared to him ridiculous to have a Treasurer. He did not receive money. The stock stood in the name of the Chairman; cheques and fees were not paid to the Treasurer, but to the Secretary. The Board was nearly bankrupt now, and would be in another month or so. He moved that no Treasurer be elected.

The Chairman said he would like to remind the Board that a reason for the appointment of a Treasurer was that, under the Midwives' Act, any adverse balance at the end of the year would have to be apportioned against the County Councils. Sir George Fordham, their Treasurer, was Chairman of the Association of County Councils, and therefore represented the parties against whom the Board would have to proceed, if necessary. With regard to the present situation, a financial change was going on. The Board had been affluent from the fees paid by the midwives enrolled at the passing of the Act. Now, these had disappeared, and there would shortly be a deficit. There was an old adage that it was a mistake to change horses in the middle of the stream.

It was decided that an Hon. Treasurer should be elected, and, as the result of the ballot, Sir George Fordham was elected to that position.

The correspondence considered included a letter from the Secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons, notifying the election of Mr. Cuthbert Hilton Golding-Bird, F.R.C.S., to represent the College on the Board, and from the Secretary of the County Councils Association, reporting the re-appointment of Sir George Fordham.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Jubilee District Nursing Congress, to be held in Liverpool on May 12th, 13th, and 14th, asking the Board to appoint two representatives. It was agreed that the Hon. Mrs. Egerton and Miss Paget should be asked to represent the Board, and Miss Paget, who was present, consented to do so.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

Amongst the business reported by the Standing Committee was the consideration of letters from Dr. A. G. R. Foulerton, County Medical Officer for East Sussex, as to medical practitioners "covering" midwives.

It was agreed that, subject to Dr. Foulerton's consent, the Board forward the letters to the Privy Council with the object of obtaining an opinion as

to whether a certified midwife, personally delivering a woman in childbirth, is acting as a midwife where a medical practitioner has been engaged to attend the case.

Letters were read from the Medical Secretary of the British Medical Association as to the supervision of midwives approved for the purpose of undertaking the practical training of pupils. The Standing Committee recommended that the Secretary's reply be approved.

Mr. Golding Bird asked for information as to the Secretary's reply, and this was read.

A second letter from the British Medical Association asking further definite questions was also read. It appeared to the Standing Committee that the answer to these was conveyed in the Secretary's former letter, but Sir William Sinclair was of opinion that this was inadequate. The British Medical Association had put its finger on a sore spot, and the letter meant the Association had had information sent it. Why should not the Board invite its help. Ultimately it was agreed to reply that the Board thought the Secretary's former letter contained practically all the information they had to give, and would be very much obliged if the B.M.A. would give them any information in its possession as to the evasion of the Act.

The Secretary was directed to remove the names of twelve midwives from the Roll on their own request.

The application of the Queen Victoria Nursing Institution, Wolverhampton, for approval as a Training School, was granted.

APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL.

The following midwives were approved for the purpose of signing Forms III. and IV.:—Priscilla Peel, No. 22368; Jessie Emily Rhind, No. 22495; and Margaret Thomson, No. 12027.

EXCLUSION OF A CANDIDATE.

The Secretary reported that by the direction of the Chairman he had excluded a candidate from the Oral Examination of April 7th by reason of a copy of the rules having been found on her chair immediately after the written examination, open at a page which contained the answer to one of the questions set in the paper, and no satisfactory explanation of the circumstance having been given. The action of the Chairman was approved, and it was agreed that a caution should be sent out to candidates with the schedules.

FUTURE WORK OF CANDIDATES.

In connection with a blue paper on which candidates for the Board's examination are requested to furnish information as to whether they intend to practice as midwives, and whether they propose to work in rural districts, Dr. Stanley Atkinson objected to the paper on the ground that the Board had no right to inquire into private matters.

The Secretary said that no one made any objection as to answering the questions, but some appeared almost insulted at being asked if they intended to practice midwifery, and ~~fixed~~ in the

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