

# The Midwife.

## The Central Midwives' Board.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Offices, Caxton House, Westminster, S.W., on Thursday, May 27th, Dr. Champneys presiding.

### REPORT OF THE PENAL CASES COMMITTEE.

The Penal Cases Committee having considered the charges against two women by their respective Local Supervising Authorities, recommended that each of them be cited to appear before the Board, and this course was agreed to.

### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

In respect to a letter from the Clerk of the West Sussex County Council, suggesting that the Local Supervising Authority should be temporarily enabled to permit uncertified women approved by them to practise as midwives after March 31st, 1910 in certain cases, the Board decided on the recommendation of the Standing Committee, to reply that there is no power under the Midwives' Act to carry out this suggestion, and that the Board does not approve of it.

In regard to a letter from Mrs. L. B. Cooper, an approved midwife (No. 3271), inquiry as to quarantine to be imposed on pupils coming from the hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums' Board, the Board agreed that inquiry be made as to the practice of the Metropolitan Asylums' Board in this respect.

In reply to a letter from Dr. E. J. Cross, Medical Adviser to the Hunts County Council on the Midwives' Act, as to a notification of still-birth given by a certified midwife, the Board agreed to inform Dr. Cross that the midwife does not appear to have acted irregularly.

In regard to a letter signed "G. P.," appearing in the *British Medical Journal* of May 8th (in which it will be remembered that the writer alleged that a midwife undertook the treatment of general cases), the Board agreed to inform the Editor of the above journal that it is prepared to investigate the matter if "G. P." will communicate with it.

On the application of three women for removal from the Roll, on the ground of ill health, inability to comply with the rules, and old age, the Board directed the Secretary to remove the names.

Mrs. Florence E. Willey, M.D., was placed on the list of Supernumerary Examiners.

The Board approved of the draft Report of the work of the Board for the year ending March 31st, 1909, with two verbal amendments. It was decided that the following notice should be printed on the card of admission to the examination sent to each candidate.

### NOTICE.

Any candidate detected in copying from another candidate, or in bringing into the examination-room any book or paper containing information which might be used in answering questions, renders herself liable to rejection for a period of four or more months.

Any such book or paper may be left in the cloak-room.

The Standing Committee having reported that Dr. A. G. R. Foulerton, Medical Officer of Health for East Sussex, had attended their meeting and discussed with the Committee the covering of midwives by medical practitioners, and the best means of its prevention, the Board decided that the attention of the Midwives' Act Committee be called to the subject.

### APPROVED TEACHERS.

The following applications for approval as teachers were granted:—Basil Hood, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.; and Miss Winifred Agneta Westlake, L.R.C.P. and S. (Edin.); and that of John W. H. Morrison, Esq., M.B., B.C., *pro hac vice*.

### APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO SIGN FORMS III. AND IV.

The applications of the following midwives were approved:—Annie Button (No. 25492), Emma Josephine Chapman (No. 21390), Christina Mackay Connon (No. 1272), Ellen Davis (No. 6886), Agnes Hannah Duplancy (No. 21480), Ellen Maude Falkner (No. 24334), Mary Ann Ford (No. 11187), Isabel Bessie Morgan (No. 23383), Beatrice May Owens (No. 28120), Gwladys Mary Williams (No. 28255).

### REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Secretary stated that the Board was apparently insolvent, but this was not actually the case, as £500 had been received in fees (presumably in connection with the entries for the examination on June 9th). The Finance Committee felt that they would be strengthened by the addition of Mr. Golding-Bird, who was present, and consented to act. Mr. Parker Young gave notice that he would move at the next meeting of the Board that Miss Paget be added to the Penal Cases Committee.

### OTHER BUSINESS.

The Secretary reported that in the recent case at Eccles, in which the Public Prosecutor proceeded against a medical man for having given a false certificate to a midwife, and against the midwife, Mrs. Marsh, for gaining admission to the Roll on false pretences, he had attended and given evidence. The summons against the medical man was dismissed, and Mrs. Marsh was committed to the Quarter Sessions, where she was bound over under the First Offender's Act to come up for judgment if called on. The Chairman said that no doubt medical men signed certificates thoughtlessly, some would sign anything except a cheque. The Board did not wish to harrify medical men, but it did wish that the irresponsible signing of certificates should be stopped, and there was evidence that the proceedings which had been taken in several instances were productive of good.

The next meeting of the Board was fixed for June 24th, to be preceded by a Penal Cases Board at 2 p.m.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)