

## The Midwife.

### The Central Midwives' Board.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on 21st inst., Dr. Champneys presiding.

#### RESIGNATION OF MISS WILSON.

The first business considered was a letter addressed to the Chairman from Miss Jane Wilson, nominee of the Privy Council on the Board, in which Miss Wilson explained that the term of her appointment did not expire until April next, but she had sent her resignation to the Lord President in order that, in the absence of any midwife of standing and education from the Departmental Committee, appointed by the Privy Council to inquire into the working of the Midwives' Act, she might be free to enter a protest.

As the President of the Midwives' Institute for fifteen years, and as a nominee of the Privy Council on the Central Midwives' Board, resignation of office appeared to her the only thing possible, as the absence of one representative of the calling to be inquired into on the Departmental Committee appeared to her both unjust and unwise, and a course which would call forth a protest from any other calling under similar circumstances.

Miss Wilson concluded by thanking the members of the Board for their courtesy, the Secretary for the help which he had afforded her, and the Chairman for his justice to all midwives.

The Chairman expressed his great regret at Miss Wilson's resignation, whose self-sacrifice while a member of the Board had been unsparing. She had been a most unselfish and devoted member, and she could not be replaced. He moved from the chair:—

#### RESOLUTION.

"That the Board learns with great regret of the resignation of Miss Wilson, who has been a member of the Board since its foundation, and desires to express its appreciation of her services, which have been invaluable, and which have involved an amount of self-sacrifice and devotion which only those who have worked with her can estimate, and considers her loss irreparable."

Mr. Parker Young heartily seconded the resolution, and hoped the Chairman would allow him to add the words, "and profoundly sympathises with the reason which has led to her resignation."

The Chairman considered that Mr. Parker Young should move the addition he proposed in the form of a rider, as all members of the Board would, he felt sure, desire to support the resolution as it stood, while they might not be unanimous as to the addition.

Mr. Parker Young then said, in support of the resolution, that he endorsed every word the Chairman had said. Miss Wilson had been a most regular and punctual member of the Board and a hard worker on sub-committees, and was one of its most useful and practical members. She would be very much missed.

Sir William Sinclair said that he had never had the slightest difficulty in recognising Miss Wilson's very valuable services. She was a most useful woman.

Miss Paget endorsed this from the point of view of the midwives.

Mr. Ward Cousins said that he had received a copy of Miss Wilson's letter to the Lord President, and was proceeding to comment on it when he was informed by the Chairman that the letter was not before the Board.

In support of the resolution, Mr. Ward Cousins expressed his very great regret at Miss Wilson's resignation. He had at all times noticed a remarkable ability and clearness in what she said. He regretted that Miss Wilson herself was not on the Departmental Committee. She was thoroughly versed in the whole question before it, and had given the Board most useful information over and over again. He hoped Miss Wilson would withdraw her resignation. The arguments in her letter to the Lord President were very striking. At the same time he personally should not have played the card she had done to gain the end she desired. He should have held his hand.

Dr. Stanley Atkinson expressed his extreme regret at Miss Wilson's resignation. She had immense knowledge along certain lines, and it was a semi-catastrophe. She had, moreover, been the chief mainspring of the Midwives' Act, and he knew that the Midwives' Institute, of which she had been President for half a generation, would hear of her resignation with dismay.

#### RIDER.

Mr. Parker Young, in moving his rider to the resolution, said that after the Chairman's remarks he concluded that the rider would not be unanimously adopted, but he thought that whether they agreed with Miss Wilson's point of view or not, if she, from conscientious motives, considered that midwives should be represented on the Departmental Committee, they should admire and sympathise with the strong action she had taken in support of that opinion in her letter to the Lord President, which he would hand to the press later. He agreed with Mr. Ward Cousins that it was a great omission that a lady of such ability was not included in the Departmental Committee.

Mr. Ward Cousins seconded the rider.

#### PREVIOUS QUESTION.

Sir George Fordham moved the previous question. He considered that the Board should not set itself up as a critic of the Privy Council. If there was a grievance it could be expressed in other ways. Personally, he was not much in favour of experts on committees. He thought they were more useful as witnesses, and that their evidence was best weighed by those who could bring an impartial and judicial mind to bear upon it.

Sir William Sinclair seconded Sir George Fordham's motion.

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