

valuable to midwives and their Committees.

REPORT OF THE MIDWIVES' ACT COMMITTEE.

The Standing Committee also reported that having had their attention called to the report of the Midwives' Act Committee by the Chairman, they recommended "That the members of the Board communicate with the Secretary as to the recommendations which they consider urgent."

Sir George Fordham considered it very undesirable that the Secretary should be bombarded with recommendations. What would he do with them when he got them?

Dr. Stanley Atkinson said that the publication of the report of the Midwives' Act Committee was the most important thing that had happened in connection with the Midwives' Act since the formation of the Board. He had been waiting for a summons to a special meeting of the Board, specially convened to consider the whole question. It was in the power of the Board to give effect to some of the recommendations immediately, and at a special meeting the Board could discuss which should be adopted straight away and which should be incorporated in a Bill.

The Chairman said Dr. Stanley Atkinson was under a misapprehension. The Standing Committee proposed the above course with the object of expediting the business; it was, of course, understood that the recommendations received by the Secretary would be tabulated by him and presented to the Board.

The most important thing referred to in the Midwives' Act Committee's report was the payment of medical practitioners summoned to attend midwives' cases, which might, as Mr. Parker Young had stated, be dealt with in a short, non-contentious Bill. Mr. Parker Young supported the suggestion, pointing out that the Committee had made 58 recommendations. Ultimately it was agreed "That a special meeting of the Board be held to consider what action should be taken with regard to the recommendations of the Midwives' Act Committee, and that the members of the Board communicate beforehand with the Secretary as to the recommendations which they consider urgent." The meeting was fixed for October 28th, before the monthly meeting of the Board.

On the recommendation of the Standing Committee, Dr. Arthur Lionel Hall Smith was placed on the list of supernumerary examiners, Dr. S. H. Fairrie, Dr. John Murray, and Dr. E. B. Reckitt were approved as teachers, and the following midwives were approved to sign Forms III. and IV.:—M. C. Bishop (7952), E. Dunn (6439), F. E. Fricker (28333), A. E. Howe (4095), M. Lightboun (3819), E. Mackenzie (28775), and A. Yeadon (25432).

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The Secretary reported that the finances were in a flourishing condition, as of the £1,853 apportioned for collection from the authorities concerned—i.e., the County and County Borough Councils—£1,737 12s. 5d. had been received, leaving only a balance of just over £115 to be still collected.

RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. Parker Young moved:—"That the resolution of the Board of July 23rd, 1908, 'That the Board is not prepared to consider any further ap-

plications for admission to the Roll under Section 2 of the Act,' be rescinded."

Dr. Stanley Atkinson asked the Secretary for his legal opinion as to whether the Board had any power to do this thing, and Mr. Duncan gave it as his opinion that the Board had not.

Miss Paget supported Mr. Parker Young's proposition, as an alternative much preferable to the proposal for qualified licences or the extension of the time limit of the Act.

Sir William Sinclair said that the Board was not a court martial or governed by the methods of a Court of Justice. Its duty was to give effect to the Act in a rational way, which was the way in which the General Medical Council administered the Medical Acts. The ignorance in Wales of the Midwives' Act was phenomenal. Some women who were good midwives had only just heard of it. It was desirable that their services should be retained, although they had not applied for enrolment within the time limit.

Dr. Stanley Atkinson then moved a resolution providing that the cases of applicants refused admission to the Roll under Section 2 of the Midwives' Act should be reconsidered, which was carried *nem. con.*

Sir George Fordham also moved:—"That Local Supervising Authorities be not allowed a hearing in penal proceedings before the Board, except by special leave of the Board, which might be given when, in the course of such proceedings, charges are made against an Authority or its officers, to which an answer may reasonably be expected."

OTHER BUSINESS.

The Secretary then read a report from Miss Paget, who had attended the Congress of Midwives at Bologna, as the representative of the Central Midwives' Board, on the invitation of the President, Professor Pazzi, who also extended a most kind welcome to the English midwives present. In all, 600 midwives were invited to the Congress. Miss Paget stated that she was much impressed by the Italian midwives. At Bologna they had a year's theoretical work before beginning their practical instruction. She had not at present the information from which she could speak of the training of the Florence midwives, but hoped to furnish it to the Board later. The occasion was a most interesting one, and she desired to record her indebtedness to Sir William Sinclair, through whose kind offices she had had the opportunity of attending the Congress.

Sir William Sinclair remarked that it was clear the length of training for midwives in this country would have to be increased.

On the proposition of Dr. Stanley Atkinson, it was agreed that the proceedings of the Bologna Congress should be filed for reference, and that it should be a standing order that the proceedings of similar Conferences should also be filed.

PANOPEPTON.

One of the Fairchild products, which should be known to midwives and nurses is "Panopepton," a peptonised food often prescribed by the medical profession when the digestive faculties are impaired, and in cases of infantile diarrhoea. It is supplied by Fairchild Bros. & Foster, London, E.C.

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