

very complimentary to the Board—viz., that it would respect the views of the Midwives' Institute if expounded by a medical man, but not if put forward by a midwife.

The Chairman explained that the Midwives' Act Committee were under the impression that they would give satisfaction to the Midwives' Institute by recommending its representation by a certified midwife. It was proposed that the Lord President should have an additional nominee in order to keep the balance of representation on the Board in any desirable direction.

Mr. Parker Young said that most of the bodies represented on the Board would like more representation. Personally, he thought it most important that the Society of Apothecaries, which he represented, and which included thousands of medical practitioners, should have another representative. He thought two representatives out of a Board of twelve persons—i.e., one-sixth of the whole number—was too liberal a representation for the Midwives' Institute. He would prefer to see the Midwives represented by directly elected representatives rather than through a Society.

The midwives throughout the country are indebted to Mr. Parker Young for his advocacy. There are on the Roll some 11,000 certified midwives, by examination, and they can in no sense be held to be represented by the nominee of a few hundred midwives attached to the Midwives' Institute.

(5) *Systematic purging of the Midwives' Roll*, which is in accordance with the recommendation of the Midwives' Act Committee, was agreed to as desirable.

(6) *That the right of delegation of their powers under the Act of the Local Supervising Authorities should be revoked*. This was also agreed to as desirable.

In view of the recommendation of the Midwives' Act Committee, that the provision and maintenance of an adequate supply of midwives is mainly a question of organisation and distribution, which should be undertaken by the co-ordinated action of local authorities and voluntary agencies, such as County Nursing Associations, working, where possible in affiliation with some central body, such as Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute; it was considered desirable that, if this were carried into effect, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute should have two representatives on the Board. The Hon. Mrs. Charles Egerton supported the recommendation of the Committee as to the general adoption of the Notification of Births Act, but would omit the words "failing this" from paragraph D 8, page 22, of the Committee's report, as she considered that the addition of a column to the register of births for the entry of the name and status of the person who actually delivered the mother should be of universal application. She also supported the recommendation that "Statutory provision should be made for the registration of still-births."

Dr. Stanley Atkinson moved that a report embodying the above material should be drawn up and sent to the Privy Council, but on the proposition of Mrs. Egerton it was agreed that the conclusions arrived at should first be formulated and sent

round to the members of the Board for their consideration.

Dr. Stanley Atkinson then pointed out that the Board had only so far considered statutory recommendations, but there were 101 other recommendations scattered through the report which should also be considered.

The special meeting then terminated.

THE MONTHLY MEETING.

At the termination of the Finance Committee meeting, held immediately after the special Board meeting, the usual monthly meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held, Dr. Champneys presiding.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

Amongst the correspondence reported were letters from the Lord Mayor of Manchester, forwarding a copy of a resolution passed by the Manchester City Council, suggesting that the Municipal Corporations' Association should be represented on the Central Midwives' Board. Also one from the Monmouthshire Nursing Association, petitioning the Board to establish an examination centre at Cardiff, or, in the alternative, to permit the written examination to be held at Newport. It was agreed to inform the Monmouthshire Nursing Association that the matter is under the consideration of the Board.

Two applications for removal from the Roll, on the ground of ill-health, were granted.

The application of Miss Emily A. Cowley for approval to sign Forms III. and IV. was granted.

REPORT OF PENAL CASES COMMITTEE.

Reports by various local supervising authorities, made at the request of the Board, on the conduct of midwives previously censured or cautioned for offences against the rules, were received in eight cases. It was resolved in three cases to ask for a further report in three months' time, and that two midwives, concerning whom unsatisfactory reports were received, should be cited to appear before the Board.

It was decided, on the recommendation of the Penal Cases Committee, to cite 24 midwives to appear before the Board; and two more, subject, in the one case, to no criminal proceedings being contemplated, and, in the other, to satisfactory evidence being furnished by the Local Supervising Authority.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Secretary reported a balance of £1,282 19s. 9d., £1,000 of which was on deposit. Six Authorities—viz., the Counties of Cornwall, Wilts, Worcestershire, Carmarthen, Anglesea, and Pembroke—had so far not paid the sum at which they were assessed, and two of these had not acknowledged the request to do so. It was agreed to inform the two defaulters that, though the Board would be very sorry to exercise the right, it had statutory powers to recover these charges.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Board on November 25th, and the December meeting on December 16th. Two Penal Boards were fixed for Wednesday, December 1st, and Thursday, December 2nd, at 2 p.m.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)