

The fullest investigation of the case was courted by Mrs. Pass's solicitors.

The Board decided to reply that the Clerk to the Guardians be informed that the midwife appeared to have complied with Rule E 18.

A letter was considered from Miss F. Bernard Boyce, Inspector of Midwives for Norfolk, as to the extent and right of a midwife to administer drugs.

It was agreed to send a reply embodying the principles laid down in a circular letter to examiners dated June 8th, 1907, on the subject of the administration of drugs by midwives. The Chairman explained that this authorised the proper administration of a proper dose under proper circumstances by a midwife, but left responsibility of decision as to what constituted these with her.

Mr. Golding Bird asked in what sense the word administer was used. Did it include choosing—*i.e.*, prescribing the drug? The Chairman replied that it did. Any other course was impossible. If a midwife might not give a dose of ergot, the patient might bleed to death while a medical practitioner was summoned to prescribe it.

APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE ROLL.

The Board then proceeded to consider the recommendation of the Standing Committee that the names of a number of midwives should be added to the Roll under Section 2 of the Midwives' Act, these applications having been referred back to the Committee by the Board.

Sir George Fordham moved an amendment that before certifying any midwife under this section, which was only in force till 1905, the opinion of counsel should be taken as to whether the Board would be acting *ultra vires* in extending the time limit fixed by Act of Parliament. He thought the Board should guard itself against wrong doing, and ascertain by reference to counsel of standing what the legal situation is, otherwise it would be in a bad position before the public and the courts if the legality of its action were questioned. This was seconded by Mr. Golding Bird.

The Chairman thought there was no doubt that, at the suggestion of the Privy Council, the Board had already gone beyond the Act, as to the certification, on good grounds, of midwives who had not claimed this privilege under Section 2 before 1905. At the same time, Section 3, I. (b) conferred powers on the Board to regulate the conditions of admission to the Roll of Midwives.

The amendment was lost, and Sir George Fordham gave notice of motion that the Privy Council be requested to sanction an alteration in the rules enabling the Board, at its discretion, to enrol midwives under the conditions laid down in Section 2. The consideration of applications was therefore adjourned for the reply of the Privy Council.

APPROVAL AS TRAINING SCHOOLS.

It was agreed to accede to the applications of the following institutions for recognition as training schools:—The Cama and Allbless Hospitals, Bombay, and the Civil Hospital and Victoria Hospital for Women and Children, Hong Kong.

APPROVAL TO SIGN FORMS III. AND IV.

The applications of the following midwives were approved for the purpose of signing Forms III.

and IV.:—Misses E. M. B. Bagnall, No. 23462; C. E. Bell, No. 28274; A. H. H. Jones, No. 24571; K. E. G. Taylor, No. 5166; S. E. Wheatcroft, No. 23927.

RESOLUTIONS.

On the motion of Dr. Stanley Atkinson the following resolution was carried:—"That it be referred to the Standing Committee to consider and report as to any administrative methods which it may be desirable to vary in the light of the report of the Midwives' Act Committee."

Mr. Parker Young then moved:—"That one member of the Central Midwives' Board be elected as a direct representative by the registered medical practitioners in England and Wales, in the same manner as the direct representatives on the General Medical Council are elected."

Mr. Parker Young said that it would be within their recollection that it was desired that there should be a representative of the general practitioners and of the midwives on the Departmental Committee recently appointed to inquire into the working of the Midwives' Act. This was not accorded, but they were informed that these sections could give evidence before the Committee. The Medical Officers of Health, however, had secured representation on the Committee, and in its report a recommendation was made that they should have a representative on the Board, which proved that where interests were represented on the Committee this had had a very good effect from the point of view of those concerned. They had been able to bring pressure to bear in respect to their own interests.

On the General Medical Council there were three direct representatives of the medical profession, a number which was now to be increased to four. The members of the medical profession on the Central Midwives' Board were appointed by Examining Boards alone, and elected by a small number of persons. The Chairman, his friend Mr. Golding Bird, and he himself were all elected in this way. He thought a method which was good in connection with the General Medical Council would be good for the Central Midwives' Board, and that the General Practitioners should be directly represented upon it. He was also prepared to say that the midwives would be far better represented in this way than by the representation of societies.

Miss Paget said that if Mr. Parker Young would include the direct representation of midwives in his resolution she would be prepared to vote for it.

Mr. Parker Young said that he would not incorporate it in the resolution, but would move a rider to that effect.

The resolution was then carried with the addition of the words, "and at the same time" after "same manner."

Mr. Parker Young then moved a rider in regard to the direct representation of midwives, but Sir George Fordham suggested that the resolution, having been passed, it was not competent for him to do so.

Mr. Parker Young then informed Miss Paget that if she would move a resolution providing for a direct representative of midwives on the Board at the next meeting he would support her.

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