The Midwife.

The Central Midwives' Board.

Special meetings of the Central Midwives' Board were held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, S.W., on Wednesday, December 1st, and Thursday, December 2nd when the charges alleged against thirty certified midwives were heard. Of this number one was admitted to the Roll by virtue of having passed the Central Midwives' Board Examination, and two as holding the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society, the rest being *bonâ-fide* midwives. The following is the result of the hearing:—

Struck off the Roll, and certificate cancelled	11
Severely censured	1
Censured	4
Cautioned	6
Sentence deferred	6
Allowed to resign	2
	30

Struck off the Roll.

The midwives struck off the Roll for offences against the rules were Mrs. Louisa Blendell (No. 7039), Herts, who wrote to the Board that she did not propose to practice midwifery longer; she was "going to give it up and take to sick nursing"; she had "had enough of Miss Burnside (the Inspector) and her ways."

Mrs. Jane Booth (No. 19519), East Sussex, the charges against whom included that she did not explain that the attendance of a medical practitioner was required in the case of a patient suffering from scarlet fever, or notify the Local Supervising Authority of the fact when one was called in, and that she falsely notified in her register that her last visit to the mother was on August 5th, and that she was then all right, whereas she was in the Eastbourne Sanatorium as a scarlet fever patient, and had not been seen by Mrs. Booth since July 29th. Also that being in attendance at the confinement of six women, whose names were given, and the child in each case being ill with serious skin eruptions within seven days of birth, she did not, in spite of repeated cautions, explain that the attendance of a registered medical practitioner was required. It was stated in evidence that five out of the six children died from pemphigus.

Mrs. Emily Bussey (No. 664), Sheffield.

Mrs. Jane Finnegan (No. 6703), Sunderland.

Mrs. Mercy Glew (No. 2607), Derbyshire. The charges against Mrs. Glew included that, having been duly suspended from practice by the Local Supervising Authority on account of having been in contact with a case of puerperal fever, she attended three midwifery cases without having disinfected herself, her clothing, or her appliances to the satisfaction of the Local Supervising Authority.

Mrs. Mary Ann Massey (No. 4163), Notts.

Mrs. Jane Philpot (No. 18896), London. Dr. Shields, Inspector of Midwives under the L.C.C., appeared in this case. Amongst the charges made against Mrs. Philpot was, that a patient being seriously ill with symptoms of puerperal mania, she did not explain that the case was one in which the attendance of a medical practitioner was required. Mrs. Philpot wrote that it was a wicked act on the part of the patient to complain of her. This was the third child she had had since her supposed husband died. She was a dangerous woman with her tongue and lies. She hoped the Board would give this immoral woman a warning for having scandalised her. Mrs. Philpot added that she has been nursing for 45 years.

Mary Anne Richardson (No. 14989), West Sussex.

Mrs. Mary Jane Rowlands (No. 922), Denbigh.

Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor (No. 715), Derbyshire.

Mrs. Georgina Martha Winfield (No. 11226), Herts, who appeared before the Board to answer the charges against her. Amongst them she was charged with removing a placenta with her hand, and (not official) of picking up a duster to dry a patient with.

Mrs. Winfield said that she did all required by Rule E 3. She did not remove the placenta with her hand; it was a falsehood. She further said that she did not douche the patient with the syringe which she used for giving enemas, and produced a glass syringe, holding about an ounce of fluid, which she explained she "bought fresh, new, for her that very morning." On being acquainted with the Board's decision to remove her name from the Roll, Mrs. Winfield said she would have to go on the parish.

Severely Censured.

Mrs. Maria Penfold (No. 6704), County of Southampton, who was charged with wilfully and knowingly having given a false certificate of stillbirth. The Midwife admitted the charge, but said the child was "not a proper child," and could not live.

Censured.

Mrs. Beatrix Inscoe (No. 19350), Warwickshire.

Mrs. Hephzibah Tracey (No. 20019), East Suffolk. The midwife was charged, amongst other things, of making no examination of a patient, and although the presentation was an abnormal one (transverse) of not explaining till she had been in attendance nearly eight hours that the attendance of a registered medical practitioner was required. The midwife's defence was that she made an external examination. In delivering judgment, the Chairman pointed out the danger of pressing the present fashion that no external examination should be made to an extreme. People who preached the avoidance of internal examination were responsible for this kind of catastrophe.

Mrs. Agnes Smith (No. 7120), Staffordshire.

Mrs. Caroline Maria Wills (No. 20899), Aldershot.

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