

The Midwife.

The Union of British Midwives.

The meeting of midwives which we announced to take place on Saturday, December 18th, at the L.C.C. Schools, Tower Street, was postponed until an early date, owing, we are informed, to the "enormous demand for tickets from all parts of the country." This, although for the moment disappointing, is a most hopeful sign; and proves that midwives are realising their professional responsibility; and no doubt when the meeting takes place it will be largely and influentially attended.

The resolutions sent out with the invitation cards suggested the organisation of "The Union of British Midwives." This is a capital title—terse and comprehensive. The object of such a Union is announced "for protecting and furthering the interests of midwives throughout the United Kingdom," and the programme of the scheme is to include (a) legal aid, (b) an information bureau, (c) medical fees, (d) a midwives' agency. We wish the suggestion of such a Union all success, and hope in 1910 it will take shape. If it is organised on the right basis we predict for it a great success.

Uncertified Substitutes.

A point recently raised in one of the cases which came before the Central Midwives' Board as to whether it is ever permissible for a certified midwife to employ an uncertified substitute, is of considerable importance. The Board, having regard to the training of pupils, and the experience necessary for them, was not prepared to say that such a substitute must never be employed. In the particular case referred to, however, the midwife was not certified for the purposes of signing Forms III. and IV. Further, the Midwives' Act is explicit. Section I. (4) says: "No woman certified under this Act shall employ an uncertified person as her substitute." It is not, however, definitely stated whether this applies only to attendance at the confinement or to the ensuing period of ten days. Apparently what is needed is a rule providing that in all cases the responsible midwife must attend the confinement, but, *bona-fide* pupils may attend subsequently under the general supervision of a recognised midwife. The Board to be supplied with a list of pupils in training.

The Central Midwives' Board.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, S.W., on Thursday, December 16th, the Chairman, Dr. F. A. Champneys, presiding.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter from the Clerk of the Council was read approving the amendments of the rules submitted by the Board with a view to guarding against ophthalmia neonatorum, and suggesting the amendment of Rule E 19 (3) by the omission of the words "or breech," in line 6. (N.B.—This amendment was suggested to the Privy Council by the General Medical Council.) The letter was received, and it was agreed to consider the suggested amendment.

A letter from the Town Clerk of Salford, forwarding a resolution of the Town Council, suggesting that the Municipal Corporations Association should be represented on the Central Midwives' Board, was read and noted.

A letter was read from the Registrar of the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, suggesting the establishment of an examination centre at Cardiff, and offering facilities for conducting the examinations in the College. Also a letter from the Secretary of the Monmouthshire Education Committee, petitioning the Board to allow candidates from Monmouthshire to be examined orally in Welsh if they so desire. The Board considered that the facilities offered in Bristol, where candidates can be examined in Welsh, were at present sufficient.

A letter was also read from the University of Leeds, nominating three medical men as examiners for the Leeds centre.

A letter from Mr. F. H. Pope, inquiring whether it was permissible for a midwife to employ an uncertificated substitute, was referred to the Standing Committee.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

Various applications for admission to the Roll without further examination, in view of the special circumstances of the case, were postponed until an answer had been received from the Privy Council on the whole question. The application of a certified midwife for removal from the Roll, on the ground of ill health, was granted.

Consideration was given to the administrative methods, which it might be desired to vary in the light of the Report of the Midwives Act Committee.

On the recommendation of the Standing Committee the Norwich Maternity Charity, and the Home for Mothers and Babies, Woolwich, were recognised as training schools.

The applications of Mr. W. D. Coghill, M.B., and Mr. S. Rattray, M.B., for approval as teachers, were granted.

The applications of the following members for approval to sign Forms III. and IV. were granted:

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