

Miss Alsop, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Benjafield, Mrs. Ganney, Mrs. Macdonald, Mrs. Maquay, Mrs. Rowdle, Mrs. Simmons, Miss Webb, Miss Whitmee, Mrs. Williams, and Miss Williams.

RESOLUTION IV.

Moved by Mrs. James and seconded by Mrs. Wilcox.

That the *pro tem.* officials and Committee be empowered to draft rules to be submitted to the first general meeting of the Society.

All the resolutions were adopted *nem con.*

In the discussion which followed, Miss Green, Inspector for Derbyshire, asked whether it would be in order for her, as an Inspector, to act as Secretary of a local branch, and the Chairman replied that while she would be eligible for membership if a midwife it would be against trade union principles for an official in authority over midwives to hold office.

Miss Green also said she had brought a message from the Medical Officer for the County of Derbyshire that he was greatly in favour of the establishment of the Union, and would help in any way he could.

Miss Green was empowered to carry a vote of thanks from the meeting to this gentleman.

One midwife said that she thought the County Councils, which gave scholarships to midwives, should take some responsibility as to providing openings subsequently, or the money expended on training was wasted. She had received a scholarship, and passed the C.M.B. examination, but had had a plate on her door for nine months before obtaining cases. As she was able to hold on, she was now doing well, but everyone could not afford to wait.

One of the reasons assigned for the difficulty of obtaining adequate fees was the competition of District Nursing Associations, which were taking up midwifery and charging very low fees.

Miss Green thought there should be a minimum charge, or self-supporting midwives would be crushed out.

The opinion of the meeting was taken as to the subscription desirable for members of the Union, and 6d. a month was suggested as suitable.

The Chairman spoke of the necessity of watching Bills introduced into Parliament affecting midwives or their patients, such as the "Necessitous Mothers' Assistance Bill."

At the conclusion of the meeting, which was animated throughout, a cordial vote of thanks to the chair was carried unanimously.

The Central Midwives' Board.

EXAMINATION PAPER.

1. What are the diameters of the normal pelvis? What kinds of conjugate measurement do you know, and how are they measured? What would you think if you could feel the promontory of the sacrum on making a vaginal examination?

2. What disorders in connection with the passage of urine may you meet with in pregnancy, labour,

and the puerperium, and how would you treat them?

3. What do you mean by obstructed labour? How would you recognise it, what may cause it, and how would you deal with such cases?

4. Describe your exact examination of the lochia pad during the puerperium, and the information to be gained from it.

5. Describe the nursing treatment, with exact details, of a premature baby weighing five pounds.

6. Under what conditions is it necessary, according to the Rules of the Central Midwives' Board, for the midwife to communicate with the Local Supervising Authority?

The Midwives' Act, 1902.

PAYMENTS TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

The Local Government Board have sent a circular to Boards of Guardians drawing attention to the report of the Departmental Committee appointed to consider the working of the Midwives' Act, 1902, and more particularly to those recommendations which deal with the payment of fees to medical practitioners summoned by midwives in cases of emergency, and to those relating to the supply and training of midwives so far as the guardians are concerned.

On the subject of payments to medical practitioners it is pointed out that the Committee recommends that the Act should be amended so as to give any medical practitioner summoned by a midwife in cases of emergency "a secure expectation of payment"; and that the Poor-Law authority should be responsible for the fee, when the medical man cannot otherwise obtain payment, and should be empowered, if they think fit, to charge the fee paid as "relief on loan." It is pointed out that full effect could not be given to this recommendation without legislation, but the Board regard it as of immediate importance that medical practitioners should, so far as practicable, feel assured of a reasonable payment for their services in such cases; and they desire to impress upon Boards of Guardians that they should give effect, if they have not already done so, to the suggestion made in the circular letter of July 29th, 1907—that medical men and certified midwives practising in the Poor-Law Union should be informed that, as regards any poor person in whose case the attendance of a registered medical practitioner is required, the Guardians will be prepared to exercise their powers under Section 2 of the Poor-Law Amendment Act, 1848, and to pay a reasonable remuneration to the medical man called in. The Board think that any medical practitioner who makes a claim on the Guardians for a fee in such a case might properly be asked to state definitely that after making reasonable efforts he had failed to secure payment from the person attended.

The Midwives' Act has now been in operation nearly eight years, and during the whole time the question of the payment of medical practitioners when called in by midwives has been a grievance. It is a legitimate one, and we hope will be effectively dealt with by legislation.

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