

The Central Midwives' Board.

The monthly meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, S.W., on Thursday, February 24th, at 2.45 p.m. Dr. F. H. Champneys, Chairman, presided.

Letters were read from the Registrar of the Royal College of Physicians, announcing the re-election of Dr. Champneys as representative of the College on the Board for the year ensuing April 1st, 1910; from the Secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons, announcing the re-election of Mr. C. H. Golding-Bird as the representative of the College on the Board for a similar period; and a letter from the Midwives' Institute, announcing that Dr. G. E. Herman had been appointed its representative on the Board in succession to the late Dr. Stanley Atkinson, J.P.

REPORT OF PENAL CASES COMMITTEE.

The Penal Cases Committee reported that at the request of the Board, reports by various Local Supervising Authorities on the conduct of midwives previously censured or cautioned for offences against the rules were received in fourteen cases. In nine cases the reports, being generally satisfactory, it was decided to take no further action, in one a further report was asked for, in another it was decided to cite the midwife to appear before the Board, the Local Supervising Authority was to be requested to suggest the voluntary resignation of the midwife in a third; one case was adjourned, and in one no action was taken.

It was decided, subject to satisfactory evidence being furnished by the respective Local Supervising Authorities in three instances, to cite 25 midwives to appear before the Board, and another unless her voluntary resignation was sent in forthwith. In another case it was decided to caution the midwife as to her methods of practice, and especially as to her duty in advising that medical help be sent for.

In connection with three applications for the restoration of names to the Roll, it was agreed to grant that of Margaret Ellen Manns (Wakefield), the consideration of one application was adjourned, and another refused.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

On the report of the Standing Committee, a letter was considered from the Clerk of the Council transmitting a copy of a report by Dr. Monckton Copeman, Medical Inspector of the Local Government Board, on an outbreak of pemphigus occurring in the practice of a midwife. It was decided to ask the Privy Council to furnish copies of the report for the use of members of the Board.

A letter was read from the Local Government Board transmitting a copy of a proposed circular to Boards of Guardians, dealing further with the payment of medical practitioners summoned on the advice of a midwife in emergency, and with the supply and training of midwives. It was decided to thank the L.G.B. for their letter, and to intimate that the Central Midwives' Board approves the proposed circular.

At the request of the Registrar of the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, permission was granted to hold the written examina-

tions at the Collège at Cardiff. The application was accompanied by forms of undertaking signed by Professor D. Hepburn, Dr. E. J. Maclean, and Dr. H. T. Samuel, the proposed supervisors.

A letter was considered from the Herts County Council forwarding a copy of a resolution passed by the Council as to the conduct of the penal business of the Board, together with a draft letter which the Standing Committee recommended should be sent to Local Supervising Authorities as to the suggestion of the Herts County Council that on the hearing of a charge against a midwife, the Local Supervising Authority should have the conduct of the case. The letter stated that before taking any action, the Board desired to ascertain the views of other County Councils in this matter. The letter was approved, and it was agreed to circulate it to the Local Supervising Authorities.

The removal of the names of seven midwives from the Roll at their own request, on the ground of ill-health or old age, was sanctioned.

In connection with the application of Dr. Davies-Colley, F.R.C.S., for appointment as one of the Board's examiners, it was agreed that Dr. Colley be placed on the list of supernumerary examiners.

The following medical practitioners were approved as teachers:—Dr. J. B. Banister, Dr. J. Johnston, Mr. E. W. Lowry, M.R.C.S., Dr. W. F. J. Whitley.

The following certified midwives were approved for the purposes of signing Forms III. and IV.:—E. B. Benjafield (No. 27026), S. A. Butler (No. 22967), Edith McClernon (No. 27140), M. F. Maunsell (No. 22459), Emma Newey (No. 26243), Harriet C. Dyke (No. 18230), Rebecca Handley (No. 23048), and Sarah Macdonald (No. 23922).

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The Secretary presented the financial statement prepared for submission to the Privy Council, which showed a deficiency of over £2,070 on the year's working. The Hon. Mrs. Charles Egerton enquired what the deficiency was last year, and the Secretary replied that it was £1,853. The examination fees, Mr. Duncan continued, showed an apparent surplus of receipts over expenditure of £383, but it had been found impossible to estimate the proportion of establishment charges and cost of printing which should be credited to the cost of the examinations. If these items were included, there would be a deficiency instead of a surplus.

DIPLOMA OF HONOUR.

The Secretary reported that a Diploma of Honour had been conferred on the Board by the Seventh National Congress of Midwives, held at Bologna from September 18th-21st, 1909, and displayed it for inspection by the Board. The Chairman said that Miss Paget had represented the Board at the Congress, so it was probably owing to her that the Board had been awarded the Diploma. The Chairman undertook to have it suitably framed.

FUTURE MEETINGS.

The March meeting of the Board was arranged for March 17th; special meetings of the Board, for dealing with penal cases, for Tuesday, April 19th, and Wednesday, April 20th; and the April monthly meeting for April 21st.

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