

## The Midwife.

### The Central Midwives' Board.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, S.W., on Thursday, March 17th, Dr. F. H. Champneys in the chair.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

The correspondence considered included a letter from the Clerk of the Council, enclosing a letter from the Leicestershire County Council, forwarding a copy of resolutions adopted after consideration of the report of the Midwives Act Committee. Also a letter from Sir George Fordham, resigning the office of Hon. Treasurer to the Board. On the motion of Mr. Parker Young, Sir George Fordham's resignation was accepted.

#### REPORT OF PENAL CASES COMMITTEE.

Reports made at the request of the Board on the conduct of two midwives, previously censured or cautioned for offences against the rules, were received from the respective Local Supervising Authorities, and, being generally satisfactory, it was agreed to take no further action in these cases.

In addition to the midwives whom the Board has already arranged to cite to appear before it, it was agreed that ten more should be so cited.

#### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

On the recommendation of the Standing Committee, the Board decided to grant the applications of ten women for removal from the Roll on the ground of ill-health or old age.

The applications of the following institutions for recognition as Training Schools were granted:—The Devon and Cornwall Training School, Plymouth; the Helena Hospital, Shorncliffe, Kent; and the Wolverhampton Union Infirmary.

The applications of Mr. W. Barker Bale, M.R.C.S., and Mr. Donald Macrae, M.R.C.S., for approval as teachers were granted, and the application of Dr. George Fawcett White *pro hac vice*.

The applications of the following midwives for approval to sign Forms III. and IV. were granted: M. Milne (No. 22493), S. E. Sinfield (No. 22509), A. E. Smith (No. 3867).

On the proposition of the Chairman, it was agreed that a "List of Institutions in which pupil midwives may be trained under the Rules of the Central Midwives' Board" be substituted for the "List of Institutions approved as Training Schools" hitherto in use.

The Secretary was instructed to communicate with the Secretary of the Royal Derby and Derbyshire Nursing Association as to complaints which have been received in connection with the training of candidates at that institution; and it was agreed that, pending a satisfactory explanation of the complaints alleged, the Board's renewal of approval, as from April 1st next, of the Royal Derby and Derbyshire Nursing Association as an Institution in which pupil midwives may be trained, be withheld.

It was decided to make inquiry of the Local Supervising Authority of the County of Norfolk as to the reason for the suspension of a midwife for a period of six weeks after a fatal puerperal fever case. On the motion of Miss Paget, it was further agreed that the Secretary be instructed to draw the attention of the Board to similar cases of prolonged suspension which come to his notice.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT ON EXAMINATION.

In connection with the Secretary's report on the recent examination, Miss Paget drew attention to the unusually high percentage of failures of candidates from St. Mary's Hospitals, Manchester.

Sir William Sinclair said that he was glad Miss Paget had drawn attention to percentages, because he wished to refer to the very low percentage of failures in London. It was far below the average.

The Chairman said that a considerable proportion of the London candidates had no intention of practising midwifery, but entered for the examination to add an additional specialty to their nursing qualifications. From time to time his attention had been drawn by the examiners to the papers written by some of the candidates, and they could not be bettered by the papers of candidates at the Medical Examination Hall.

Sir William Sinclair proposed, and it was agreed, that visitors should be appointed to the examination at Manchester.

It was also agreed that it would be useful to have a return of the percentage of failures in the examinations, of those who intended to practise midwifery, and of those who propose to act as monthly nurses, and the Secretary was instructed to prepare this return.

#### NEW RULE.

The Secretary reported that a letter had been received from the Clerk to the Council, enclosing a copy of a new Rule, sanctioned by an Order of Council of the 14th inst, enabling the Central Midwives' Board to admit to the Roll a candidate who, though duly qualified under Section 2 of the Midwives Act, failed to claim the Board's certificate during the two years' period of grace which ended on March 31st, 1905. This Rule (Rule B. 2) is as follows:—

**A candidate who has failed to claim to be certified under the Midwives Act within the time limited by Section II. of the Act, and who satisfies the Central Midwives' Board that, but for her failure so to claim, she would have been entitled to be certified under the Act, may be admitted by the Central Midwives' Board to the Roll of Midwives upon such conditions as the Central Midwives' Board shall think fit, and shall receive a certificate in the form set out in the Schedule and her name shall be entered by the Secretary on the Roll of Midwives. (Schedule, Form II. B.) Provided always that no such candidate shall be admitted to the Roll of Midwives after September 30th, 1910.**

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