

## Conference of Inspectors of Midwives.

### FORMATION OF AN INSPECTORS' ASSOCIATION

An informal meeting of Inspectors of Midwives was held at 12, Buckingham Street, Strand (by kind permission of the Midwives' Institute Committee) during the Midwifery and Nursing Conference week. The meeting was convened by Miss du Sautoy, the Inspector for Somerset. About 40 Inspectors were present.

Among subjects discussed were quarterly and annual reports, puerperal fever cases, still-births, investigation of mode of practice, penal procedure (Section 8 of Midwives Act), method of keeping reports of midwives and inspections, payment of doctors, question of formation of Inspectors' Association. In considering "the working of the Act," a resolution was proposed, seconded, and passed unanimously, "that in the opinion of the Inspectors of midwives it is expedient that notice of any change in the rules of the Central Midwives Board should be at once sent to all Local Supervising Authorities." The Convenor was asked to send this to the Central Midwives' Board.

The question of payment of doctors sent for by a midwife was discussed, and the general opinion was that the Local Supervising Authority should undertake this. Whether they should ever try to recover the fees paid or not was not an agreed upon point, but all present seemed to be thoroughly against payment by Boards of Guardians, chiefly owing to the stigma of pauperism involved.

It was agreed that an Association of inspectors should be formed, details to be left to the Convenor, and that an annual conference should be held. The meeting lasted three hours, and closed with a vote of thanks to the Midwives' Institute and to the Chairman.

All Inspectors who could do so were asked to meet on the last day of the Conference, and discuss the amended Bill, but no resolution was passed with regard to it; very few Inspectors were able to remain in London till that day.

Particulars *re* the Inspector's Association can be obtained from Miss du Sautoy, 16, Elm Grove, Taunton.

## The Central Midwives' Board.

### PENAL CASES.

#### STRUCK OFF THE ROLL.

Mary Backhouse (804), charged with not advising medical assistance for patient with rigor, nor did she take the temperature, though present at the time. Said she had seen similar cases come all right.

Sarah Beeston (11991), neglect of disinfectants and of reporting offensive lochia and rigors. Patient died.

Ann Foley (978), did not report rigor, sickness, and abdominal pain, nor inflammation of the infant's eyes; she did not wash the infant at birth, but wrapped it up and went home to prepare dinner.

Frances Rebecca Llewellyn (11893), did not advise medical assistance in a case of recurrent hæmorrhage during a period of five weeks previous to confinement. Patient died suddenly; was found to have placenta prævia.

Esther Letherin (18953), drunk on duty. Pleading having taken whiskey for cold, and not being used to spirits. No other charge being against her, may apply for reinstatement later.

Mary Ann Neale (4807), neglected to advise medical assistance for purulent ophthalmia.

Susanna Thomas (16786), refused persistently to submit bag and appliances for inspection, defence being that, as she is Welsh, she cannot understand directions in English.

Elizabeth Williams (4001), did not advise medical assistance for inflammation of infant's eyes. The sight of one eye lost in consequence.

#### SEVERELY CENSURED.

Mary Frankham (236), a portion of the placenta having been retained, and the temperature high, with rigor; did not advise medical assistance.

Alice Turner (19429), failed to notify death of infant in proper form; also a second charge of having, in the case of another infant, advised medical assistance, and failed to notify the same.

#### CENSURED.

Elizabeth Anderson (520), did not advise medical assistance for inflammation of infant's eyes. It was shown that the midwife walked four miles each way to this case daily.

#### ADJOURNED.

Jane Robinson (5134), negligence on several charges. Defence for not taking temperature at rigor, experience teaches her when temperature is raised.

Charlotte Flanagan (15702), negligence on several counts; uncleanly.

Mary Adkins (1385), case adjourned; to be reported on in three and six months.

#### CAUTIONED.

Elizabeth Baverstock (10281) did not send for doctor in case of adherent placenta; patient died. Adelaide Harker (8979) charged with neglect of patient and want of cleanliness.

Arabella Matilda Hopton (10731), charged with neglecting to send for a doctor, symptoms of puerperal fever having developed after the tenth day.

Sarah Jane Long (2350) neglected to send for medical assistance for symptoms of puerperal fever, and with having given douches with an enema syringe.

Sarah King (23594), charged with (a) patient suffering from loss of blood, did not advise medical assistance; (b) though engaged to attend, did not do so. Defence, illness.

#### AN ALTERNATIVE.

Emma Measom (12005) neglected to report inflammation in infant's eyes, and other charges; to send up her register or be struck off Roll.

Sarah Jane Crowe (21434) refused to submit her bag, appliances, etc., for inspection. Ordered to send up certificate or be struck off the Roll.

Maria Penfold (6704), negligence and incompetence. To resign or be struck off Roll.

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