

# The Midwife.

## The Central Midwives' Board.

### THE MONTHLY MEETING.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, July 28th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter was received from the Home Secretary, conveying the thanks of the King for the Board's loyal and dutiful resolution of sympathy on the occasion of the lamented death of his late Majesty King Edward the Seventh and of congratulation on his Majesty's accession to the throne.

### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was received from the Clerk of the Council, transmitting the copy of a letter addressed to him by the Lord Mayor of Manchester, with a copy of a resolution passed by the City Council, suggesting the omission of the words "conducted for profit" in Clause 15 of the Midwives Bill, 1910, as introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Wolverhampton.

[Clause 15 provides that any officer appointed by a Local Supervising Authority shall have power at all reasonable times to enter any premises which he has reason to believe to be a lying-in home, in which a certified midwife is employed or practises, or in which a woman not a certified midwife practises in contravention of the principal Act.]

It was agreed to reply that the Board observes that the suggested amendment has been carried out in the Midwives (No. 2) Bill, 1910.

A letter was received from the Medical Officer of Health for Leicester as to the "covering" by a certified midwife of Emma Measom, whose name has been removed from the Roll.

The Board recommended that inquiries should be made as to whether Emma Measom has ever delivered a patient by herself since her name was removed from the Roll, or whether she has visited a patient unaccompanied by the other midwife.

It was decided to reply to the Secretary of the Medical Defence Union, and to another from a registered medical practitioner, complaining of advertisements by midwives, that the midwives concerned did not appear to have infringed any rule of the Board.

A letter was received from the Clerk of the London County Council as to a charge of misconduct brought by a certified midwife against another certified midwife formerly in her employment.

The Board decided to request the Local Supervising Authority for the County of London to trace the midwife, if possible, and, if she can be communicated with, to consider whether a *prima facie* case of misconduct has been established against her.

A letter was read from a certified midwife, inquiring as to the necessity of notification of intention to practise where, though a doctor is always engaged for a case, she herself habitually delivers the patient.

The Standing Committee recommended "that the midwife be informed that she would be right in notifying the Local Supervising Authority under the circumstances mentioned," but Mr. Parker Young objected. The midwife, as shown in her letter, lived in a doctor's house, and acted as his assistant in midwifery. He moved an amendment that the midwife be informed that under the circumstances it is unnecessary for her to notify, as the doctor is responsible. Miss Paget seconded.

The Chairman objected to the amendment, on the ground that it would be undignified of the Board to give an opinion which might land the midwife in a prosecution.

Eventually the amendment was withdrawn, and the Board decided to reply that "inasmuch as the question involves points of law the Board do not consider it their province to advise."

A letter was received from a pupil midwife complaining that the approved midwife under whose supervision she had taken her cases declined to sign the necessary certificate in respect thereof. It was decided to refer the pupil midwife to the terms of the certificate, as given in Form III. in the schedule of the rules of the Board, and in particular to the words, "to my satisfaction."

### APPLICATIONS RESPECTING ROLL.

The applications of five certified midwives for removal of their names from the Roll were granted.

The application of Emily Catherine Bligh Hall, late No. 13941, for the restoration of her name to the Roll, after removal on voluntary application, was granted.

The applications of fifty midwives for certificates under Rule B2 were granted.

The application of the authorities of the Oldham Union Infirmary for its recognition as a training school was granted.

The applications of the following medical practitioners for approval as teachers were granted:— Dr. F. R. Cassidi, Mr. W. G. Copestake, M.R.C.S.E., Miss H. E. E. M. A. Greene, L.S.A., Dr. Robert Laurie, Dr. F. Chown, D.P.H., Mr. F. C. Morgan, M.R.C.S., Dr. Henry Robinson.

Applications for approval to sign Forms III. and IV. from the following midwives were granted:— Marian Ancott (No. 23288), Rose Fremont Grylls (No. 6319), Annie Martha Snook (No. 29962).

The Secretary made a report on the examination on June 15th, and presented the analysis of training, which showed the percentage of failures from training schools to be 13.7 per cent., from pupils under private tuition 24 per cent.—total, 17.2 per cent.

As September 30th is the last day on which applications for admission to the Roll under Rule B2 can be considered, it was agreed to hold a Standing Committee on that day, to be followed by a special meeting of the Board, dealing only with the granting of such applications. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on October 6th.

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