

The Midwife.

The Central Midwives' Board.

The monthly meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, June 30th.

At the beginning of the proceedings Mr. Parker Young moved the following resolution of congratulation to the Chairman of the Board, Sir Francis Champneys, on whom the honour of a Baronetcy was conferred amongst the Birthday Honours:—

"That the hearty congratulations of this Board be accorded to its Chairman on the distinguished honour conferred on him by the King, an honour they feel he so well deserved for the dignity, courtesy, and impartiality with which he has presided over the Board's deliberations since its commencement."

Mr. Parker Young said he counted it a pleasure to move a resolution which any member of the Board would have been only too proud to move. When the administration of the Act first commenced, eight years ago, and it became the duty of the Board to elect a chairman, the members met as strangers to one another. The late Dr. Cullingworth moved the election of Dr. Champneys as Chairman, and the speaker, not knowing Dr. Champneys, and realising how important it was to have the right chairman, felt it his duty to move a rider that the appointment should be *pro tem*. Since that time, year after year, they had re-elected the chairman, and he hoped it would be long before they lost his services. The honour conferred upon him added lustre to the Board, and they felt it an honour to have Sir Francis as their chairman.

The resolution was seconded by Miss Paget, who endorsed all that Mr. Parker Young had said, and thought that midwives owed the Chairman a debt of gratitude for his fairness and impartiality.

It was supported by every member of the Board present, Mr. Golding Bird saying that there was no man upon whom his college would sooner see this honour conferred than upon Dr. Champneys, who introduced into all his professional relationships the high tone on which a liberal profession should be based. The resolution was carried unanimously.

Sir Francis Champneys, in acknowledging the resolution, thanked the members of the Board for the exceptionally kind way in which they had spoken of his work, and said that the honour which his Majesty had seen fit to confer upon him would be of comparatively little value to him unless it had been endorsed by those who knew him. He would distribute the honour amongst the members of the Board. He had rowed stroke, but no boat ever won a race unless the crew all rowed together. He referred to the eminent services Miss Jane Wilson had rendered to the Board. They would never forget her extraordinary public spirit. Nor would they forget what they owed to the late Mr. Heywood Johnstone, and the late Dr. Cullingworth.

He thought that the action of his Majesty would promote the dignity and usefulness of the Central Midwives' Board, and might be taken as a proof of the Royal estimation of its work.

The Board's opinion of the value of the work of its Chairman will be generally endorsed. We appreciate his generosity in dividing his honours with his colleagues, but may we hope in some future Birthday Honours list to find that Miss Paget and Miss Wilson are awarded some personal recognition for their work in promoting the Midwives' Bill, in that most trying period before it became law, and the Board was constituted. May we hope also that some day, in the near future, the Chairman of the Central Midwives' Board, who realises the benefit conferred upon the public by the registration of midwives, will also realise that it is for the public good that the qualifications of nurses should be tested and registered?

REPORT OF PENAL CASES COMMITTEE.

On the report of the Penal Cases Committee it was decided to cite twenty-nine midwives to appear before the Board, and that special meetings should be held on July 19th and 20th for this purpose.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

On the recommendation of the Standing Committee the Board decided to reply to a letter from Miss F. M. Bernard Boyce, Inspector of Midwives for the County of Norfolk, stating that the period of suspension for the purpose of disinfection in that county has now been reduced to seven days, that "the Board considers that it is unfortunate that the arrangements for disinfection in the County of Norfolk are so far from adequate, and hopes that they will be provided without delay." As regards the period of quarantine, the Board referred to their original communications on the subject.

In reply to a further question from Miss Bernard Boyce it was decided to reply that the Local Supervising Authority has power to suspend a midwife for the purpose of preventing the spread of infection when she has been in attendance on a case of puerperal fever as a maternity nurse and not as a midwife.

In reply to a letter from the Right Hon. G. W. Palmer, of Marlston House, Newbury, as to the difficulty of maintaining midwives in country districts by voluntary efforts, and the necessity of their provision by the State, referred to the Board at the instance of the President of the Local Government Board, it was decided to reply that the Board "thinks it desirable that the State should subsidise midwives for poor and sparsely populated rural districts."

In reply to a letter from the British Medical Association as to the danger of midwives employing pupils as their substitutes, and suggesting that a midwife should be made directly responsible for any misconduct on the part of her pupil, the Board agreed to inform the Association that a midwife employing a pupil is already responsible to the

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