

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, November 24th. Sir Francis Champneys presided.

A letter was received from the Clerk of the Council requesting the Board to furnish the Lord President with statistics as to the number and distribution of certified midwives in the country, for the use of the Austro-Hungarian Ministry of the Interior.

REPORT OF THE PENAL CASES COMMITTEE.

On the recommendation of the Penal Cases Committee, it was decided, in connection with the claim of Dr. A. F. Whitwell for a fee of £1 1s. for information given in the case of a certified midwife, that a fee of one guinea be paid to Dr. Whitwell without prejudice to the action of the Board in any similar cases arising hereafter.

After considering reports made at the request of the Board by various Local Supervising Authorities on the conduct of midwives previously censured or cautioned for offences against the rules, the Board decided that three midwives be cited to appear before the Board, and that no further action be taken in twelve cases, the reports being generally satisfactory.

A letter was reported from Dr. G. Reid, County Medical Officer for Staffordshire, reporting the conviction at Cannock Petty Sessions of a certified midwife for disorderly behaviour. It was agreed to ask Dr. Reid whether the Local Supervising Authority finds a *prima facie* case of misconduct or negligence to be established.

In the case of a certified midwife whose conviction at the Oxford City Petty Sessions for being drunk and incapable was reported by the Inspector of Midwives, and in a second in which the Clerk of the Cornwall County Council forwarded a report by a Medical Officer of Health on a complaint lodged by a registered medical practitioner against a midwife, it was decided to cite both to appear before the Board, subject to a *prima facie* case being found by the Local Supervising Authority in each instance.

It was further decided to cite 28 other midwives to appear before the Board, after consideration of the charges alleged against them by their respective Local Supervising Authorities.

It was decided that special meetings of the Board be held on Tuesday, December 13th, and Thursday, December 15th, at 2 p.m., for dealing with all penal cases and applications then ready for hearing.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

On the report of the Standing Committee a letter was considered from Dr. Niven, Medical Officer of Health for Manchester, forwarding a copy of a Resolution passed by the Local Supervising Authority for that city as to the taking and recording of

temperature. It was decided to inform Dr. Niven that the matter will be considered on the revision of the rules which is about to take place.

A letter was considered from the Birkenhead Medical Society suggesting an amendment of Section 1 (2) of the Midwives Act, 1902, so as to prevent uncertified women holding themselves out as "emergency" women and practicing as midwives with impunity. It was decided to inform the Society that the suggestion will be borne in mind should opportunity arise for dealing with it.

A letter was considered from a certified midwife suggesting that the Board should issue a badge as the distinguishing mark of a certified midwife. It was decided to refer the question again to the Standing Committee for consideration and report.

APPLICATIONS FOR REMOVAL AND RESTORATION OF NAMES.

The applications of twelve certified midwives for the removal of their names from the Roll on the grounds of ill-health, old age, inability to comply with the rules, and one on account of her marriage, were granted, and the Secretary was directed to remove their names from the Roll and cancel their certificates.

The Board granted the application of Margaret Michael for the restoration of her name after voluntary removal.

REVISION OF THE RULES.

The Board decided, in connection with the revision of the rules, that it be referred to the Standing Committee to revise the rules and to report to the Board thereon. That, with this object, the various Local Supervising Authorities be invited to suggest amendments.

REPORT ON BOARD'S WORK FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31ST, 1910.

The Board considered and amended the draft Report already circulated to members of the Board, and, after having approved and adopted it, ordered that it be forwarded to the Privy Council.

APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL AS TEACHER.

The following applications for approval as teacher were granted:—John Henry Farlstein, Esq., M.B., F.R.C.S.; Arthur Cecil Devereux, Esq., M.B., F.R.C.S.; Robert Henry Norgate, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.; William Pinck, Esq., M.B., L.R.C.S.; William Octavius Pitt, Esq., M.D.; William Stuart Vernon Stock, Esq., M.B., F.R.C.S.; Crawford Smith Crichton, Esq., M.D.

APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL TO SIGN FORMS III. AND IV.

The following applications for approval to sign Forms III. and IV. were granted:—Eveline Harriet Barnes (No. 26624), Evelyn Hessie Furminger (No. 28335), Florence Mabel Griffiths (No. 26443), Lilian Rickman (No. 29191), Jessie Williams (No. 18219), Jane Carnegie Wishart (No. 29243), Jessie Flora Mackintosh (No. 28079), Annie May Wilkinson (No. 24434), Delia Sella (No. 9352), Sophie Polsue (No. 1300).

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