

The Midwife.

The Central Midwives Board.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, April 27th. The first business transacted was the re-election of Sir Francis Champneys as Chairman, and the election of the Penal Cases and Finance Committees.

REPORT OF PENAL CASES COMMITTEE.

Arising out of the report of the Penal Cases Committee the Board considered a letter from the Clerk of the Council as to whether a midwife who was guilty of a breach of the rules of the Board when acting as a maternity nurse, under the direction of a qualified medical practitioner, was amenable to the jurisdiction of the Board, the following resolution was passed:—

"The Board does not consider that the midwife under the circumstances was amenable to Rule E."

Reports made at the request of the Board on a number of midwives by their respective Local Supervising Authorities were considered. In seven cases it was decided that no further action be taken, the consideration of one was adjourned for further information, and of another *sine die*.

It was decided to cite 19 midwives to appear before the Board, and two more, subject to adequate evidence being furnished by the respective Local Supervising Authorities. A special meeting of the Board for dealing with all the penal cases and applications then ready for hearing was fixed for Tuesday, May 30th, at 1.30 p.m.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

In reply to a request from the Clerk of the Council as to the Board's observations on a letter addressed to the President of the Local Government Board by a woman whom the Board had refused to certify under Rule B2, it was decided to reply that the application was carefully considered by the Board, who, for reasons appearing to be sufficient, came to the conclusion that it would be inadvisable that she should be granted a certificate.

A letter was considered from the Clerk of the Council transmitting a copy of a letter from the Devon County Council in regard to a suggestion of the Board that Section 1 (2) of the Midwives' Act should be amended by the deletion of the words "habitual and for gain." It was decided to communicate to the Clerk of the Council a list of those Local Supervising Authorities who have concurred with the Board's suggestion for the amendment of Section 1 (2) of the Midwives' Act, 1902, by the deletion of the above words.

The Board decided to acknowledge with thanks a letter from the Director of Public Prosecutions, informing it that Susan Haster, of 13, Kenilworth Street, Notting Dale, whose name was removed from the Midwives' Roll on July 12th, 1906, had been convicted of manslaughter at the Central Criminal Court on March 30th, and sentenced to four months' imprisonment with hard labour.

In connection with a letter from the Clerk of the Derbyshire County Council, inquiring whether the Board would be prepared to defray the expenses of an appeal from the Chesterfield Justices who had held that attendance otherwise than at the actual time of birth was not attendance "in childbirth," the Board approved the reply of the Secretary, pointing out that the power and duty of taking proceedings under Section 1 (2) of the Midwives' Act, 1902, was conferred on the Local Supervising Authority by Section 13 of the Act, and that comparatively the duty of bearing the "expenses of any such prosecution" was imposed on the Authority.

APPLICATIONS FOR REMOVAL FROM ROLL.

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

APPROVAL TO SIGN FORMS III. AND IV.

The applications of the following midwives for approval to sign Forms III. and IV. were granted Sophia Daniel (No. 9123), Gertrude Sophia Grundy (No. 24027), Ellen Lynam (No. 1998), and Kathleen May (No. 28086). The application of Dora Beryl Vine (No. 29718) was granted *pro hac vice*.

The report of the Finance Committee was received, and the date of the next meeting fixed for May 18th at 2.45 p.m.

THE APRIL EXAMINATION.

The following is the examination paper set by the Central Midwives' Board for candidates on April 25th ult.:—

1. What do you mean by "inevitable abortion?"

How would you recognise this condition, and how would you treat the patient pending the arrival of the doctor?

2. Describe the position of the female urethra, including the meatus.

State fully how you would pass a catheter on a lying-in woman.

3. What are the dangers to (a) mother, (b) child, in a case where there is a purulent vaginal discharge at the commencement of labour?

Describe carefully what treatment you would adopt to guard against these dangers.

4. How would you recognise a case of occipitoposterior position of the vertex?

What are the causes of delay in the progress of labour in such a case?

5. Describe in detail how you would manage the third stage of labour in a normal case.

6. What are the causes of diarrhoea (a) in a breast-fed infant? (b) in a bottle-fed infant? How would you deal with such cases?

At Richmond Police Court on April 28th, Thomas Jones, charged in connection with Mrs. Sadler, or Palmer, a certified midwife, with the wilful murder of Elsie Sweetnam, was discharged. Mrs. Sadler (against whom other charges were preferred) was committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court on a charge of murder.

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