

## The Central Midwives Board.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held in the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, S.W., on Thursday, June 15th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

### REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was received from the Clerk of the Council transmitting certain suggestions of the General Medical Council for the alteration of the revised rules. It was agreed to adopt the suggestions and incorporate them.

A memorandum on the revised rules, prepared by the Senior Medical Inspector for Poor Law purposes of the Local Government Board was left to the Chairman to deal with.

A suggestion from the Secretary of State for the Home Department in regard to the alteration of the new Rule F 2 limiting the powers of suspension by Local Supervising Authorities, was adopted and incorporated in the revised rules.

Sir William Sinclair was appointed a delegate to the Third International Congress for the Study and Prevention of Infantile Mortality to be held at Berlin from September 11th to 15th, the appointment of a second delegate was left open.

### APPLICATIONS FOR REMOVAL FROM ROLL.

The names of three certified midwives were removed from the Roll at their own request on the ground of old age or ill health.

### APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL.

Mr. T. L. Ashforth, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., was approved as a teacher.

The applications of the following midwives for approval to sign Forms III. and IV. were granted: Fanny Elizabeth Brindley (No. 21337), Margaret McGeagh Knipe (No. 44), Ellen Newbold (No. 31279), Ada Jane Watson (No. 9266).

### CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter was read from the Hull Association of Midwives (affiliated to the Midwives' Institute), asking the Board to support amendments to the National Insurance Bill framed by it. It was decided to defer consideration of letter until after a resolution on the Agenda in the name of Sir George Fordham had been considered.

### RESOLUTION.

Sir George Fordham then called attention to the National Insurance Bill, and particularly to clauses 13 to 17 (Administration of Benefits), and moved "That it is desirable that the position of midwives under the Bill should be more clearly defined and strengthened and the duties in respect of maternity benefits distinguished from those of the medical profession." Miss Paget seconded.

In proposing the Resolution, he pointed out, in connection with Clause 42, that it was important some professional persons should be amongst the Advisory Committee appointed under the Bill; and that the practice of midwives should be distinguished from medical practice. He showed that midwives have a distinct status, duty, and claim upon Parliament, and appeared further to think that all normal midwifery should be in the hands of midwives, the medical profession being called in only when difficulty arose.

Mr. Parker Young thought it would be very unwise to pass a Resolution of this character,

especially after the explanation given by Sir George Fordham.

After considerable discussion, the following amendment was proposed by Mr. Parker Young.

"That the National Insurance Bill, so far as it affects the practice of midwives, be referred to the Standing Committee for consideration and report." This was seconded by Mr. Golding Bird.

Sir George Fordham said he had no objection to referring the question to the Standing Committee.

It was agreed that other relevant matter might be considered at the same time, and the amendment was carried. It then became the substantive motion and was carried.

Sir William Sinclair said that the Bill was unintelligible, and the Board would do no good at all by interference. He pointed out also that if it passed in its present form it would be impossible for the voluntary hospitals to exist.

Miss Paget said that midwives were in no way asking for a monopoly of practice under the Bill, and the Chairman, in reference to Sir George Fordham's suggestion that midwives were the practitioners of midwifery in the first line, and that the medical profession should stand in the relation of consultants to them, said that midwives had never claimed this position. All they asked for was that there should be freedom of choice, and this the General Medical Council held very strongly.

Sir George Fordham evidently does not discriminate between remunerative and unremunerative midwifery. To the latter midwives have always been welcome.

### EXAMINATION PAPER.

The following is the paper set to candidates on June 14th:—

1. Describe the uterus and its position—(a) In the non-pregnant state, (b) At the mid-term of pregnancy.

2. Describe in detail how the head passes the outlet in the following presentations:—(a) Occipito-anterior, (b) Occipito-posterior, (c) Face, (d) Breech.

How would you act if there were delay in the birth of the after coming head?

3. What consequences may arise as the result of a rupture of the perineum, and what ought you to do when it occurs?

How do you manage delivery so as to avoid a laceration?

4. The lochia discharge on the 4th day of the puerperium is noticed to be offensive. What might cause this, and what other symptoms might be present?

Give the rules of the Central Midwives' Board in such cases.

5. What are the causes of asphyxia in a newly born child?

Explain exactly what treatment you would adopt.

6. What drugs do you take with you to a confinement?

Under what circumstances would you use them, and in what doses?

What are the rules of the Central Midwives' Board with regard to the administration of drugs?