

to midwives who can neither read nor write, or who are incapable of learning to take or record pulse and temperature, it was agreed to point out that it lies with the Local Supervising Authority to take action in the first instance against midwives who are unable to comply with the Rules of the Board, and that the Board would deal with any midwife against whom the Authority had found a *prima facie* case of malpractice, negligence, or misconduct.

In connection with a letter from the Superintendent of the Cornwall County Nursing Association, enquiring whether a midwife may attend maternity cases and nurse cases of enteric fever at the same time, the Superintendent was referred to Rule E. 5. This rule provides that whenever a midwife has been in attendance upon a patient or in contact with a person supposed to be infectious, she must disinfect herself and her appliances and have her clothing thoroughly disinfected to the satisfaction of the Local Supervising Authority before going to any other maternity patient.

The Secretary was directed to remove the names of five midwives from the Roll upon their own request.

REPORT.

The Secretary submitted a draft Report of the Work of the Board for the year ended May 31st, 1911. It was not communicated to the Press, as Mr. Duncan stated that this was done last year, and he "got a wiggling" from Sir Almeric FitzRoy, who said it was most unconstitutional that it should be given to the Press until it had been submitted to the Privy Council and presented to Parliament.

APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL.

The applications of the following medical practitioners for approval as teachers were granted:—Mr. R. C. Allen, M.R.C.S., D.Ph., Dr. G. Geddes, Dr. H. B. Kelly, R.A.M.C., Dr. E. L. Prowde, Dr. M. F. Squire, Mr. R. T. Taylor, M.R.C.S., Mr. F. E. A. Webb, M.R.C.S. The applications of the following gentlemen were granted *pro hac vice*:—Dr. A. H. Gregson, Dr. R. E. B. Yelf.

The applications of the following midwives for approval to sign Forms III. and IV. were granted: Agnes E. Guest (No. 25573), Matilda E. Laws (No. 6208).

The Secretary presented his report on the last Examination. The names of the successful candidates have already been published in this journal.

The date of the next meeting of the Board was fixed for December 21st, and of the January meeting for January 18th.

THE NEXT EXAMINATION.

The next examination of the Central Midwives Board will be held in London at the Examination Hall, W.C., on December 15th. The Oral Examination will follow a few days later.

LEGAL MATTERS.

In the Clerkenwell Court last week, before Judge Cluer, a woman, described as a nurse, who had been engaged to attend a married woman in her confinement, and who was not allowed to carry out the engagement, claimed the payment of the fees agreed upon, or, in default, damages for breach of contract. She admitted, during cross-examination, that the man she was living with was not her husband. The judge, who said the case was the first of the kind he had known, addressing the plaintiff, said that she might be living a virtuous and proper life, and it appeared that she was, but public opinion was against people living as she did, and he did not think she could force herself upon a married woman who refused to have her, and who might at such a critical time in her life be terribly upset over it.

Judgment was entered for the defendant, but the judge gave leave to appeal, and said he hoped the case would be taken to the higher court.

A WISE MOVE.

The National Association of Midwives, 9, Albert Square, Manchester, and the Union of Midwives, 33, Strand, London, W.C., have now affiliated. This step should prove of mutual advantage.

SALES OF WORK.

The annual Sale or Fancy Fair for the Maternity Nursing Association, 63, Myddelton Square, E.C., took place in the Finsbury Town Hall on November 21st, and was a greater success than usual. The sale was opened by Lady Savory, the Mayor of Finsbury being in the chair. Several friends of the Association were present, including past and present nurses. Owing to the enlargement of the Home this year there have been many additional expenses, and the sum of £145 realized during the Sale will be a welcome addition to the Funds at the disposal of the Committee.

There were various well-stocked stalls, including one presided over by the Matron, assisted by the nurses at the Home. Refreshments were tastefully arranged in the small Hall where also a Café Chantant took place during the afternoon. Other attractions were character reading and Morris Dances, and a Jumble Sale, which attracted a good many of the patients during the evening.

The number of cases attended from Myddelton Square during the past ten months of the present year is 502. At the two branches 108 have been attended at Camden Town and 162 at Homerton.

Lady Wilson's sale for the Bloemfontein Maternity Home, which was held last week at 43, Ovington Square, was, we are glad to learn, successful in securing a substantial addition to the funds of this useful charity.

The Women's Labour League has opened a baby clinic at 12, Telford Road, Kensington, as a joint memorial to the late Mrs. Ramsay Macdonald and Mrs. Mary Midleton.

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