

have come forward or endeavoured to obtain the qualifying certificate of the Central Midwives Board. The town is, therefore, without the services of a single certificated nurse, and one or two women holding the necessary certificate are very much needed, and their services would be highly appreciated.

The letter was acknowledged, but no member of the Board suggested an explanation that the supervision of nurses is no part of its duty.

A letter was also received from Sir Almeric Fitzroy, Clerk to the Council, in regard to Clause 18 of the National Insurance Act and the payment of medical practitioners called in to the assistance of midwives.

In regard to the report for the year of the Central Midwives Board, which has not yet been presented to Parliament, the Chairman stated that he had seen Sir Almeric Fitzroy, by request, in regard to one clause, and as a result of the interview he suggested that the clause should be deleted, which was done.

REPORT OF THE PENAL CASES COMMITTEE.

On the report of the Penal Cases Committee it was decided to advise Elizabeth Hannah Bardsley, No. 21114, to send in her voluntary resignation. It was decided to cite 26 midwives to appear before the Board, and a further number subject to adequate evidence being furnished by the respective local supervising authorities. In the case of two midwives it was decided to cite them to appear before the board unless they sent in their voluntary resignations and surrendered their certificate by January 5th.

Special meetings of the Board for dealing with the penal cases and applications then ready for hearing were arranged for Friday, January 26th, and Tuesday, January 30th.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was received from the Local Government Board forwarding extracts from the annual reports for 1909 and 1910 of the medical officer of health for the Wantage Rural District calling attention to the inadequate supply of midwives in the district and the causes thereof.

Letters were received from Dr. C. E. Paget, county medical officer for Northamptonshire, stating that, in accordance with the provisions of Rule E2, he had advised a district nurse who practised midwifery to abstain from practice as a midwife for a period of 14 days after complete disinfection of herself, her clothing, and her appliances, by reason of her having been in contact with a case of scarlet fever for a period of 18 days.

Letters were also read from Dr. W. J. Howarth, county medical officer for Kent, reporting the suspension of two midwives, and from Dr. H. Handford, county medical officer for Notts, reporting the suspension of midwives for periods of 11, 12, and 14 days, respectively. The Board approved the action taken.

A letter was considered from an "approved" midwife at Norwich, asking the Board to reconsider its decision not to recognise a local medical practitioner as a teacher because of the difficulty she experienced in obtaining theoretical instruction for her pupils from the recognised teachers of the Norwich Maternity Charity. The Board, however, referred the applicant to the medical staff of the Charity.

A letter was considered from the Medical Officer of Health for Birkenhead calling attention to the difficulty of successfully prosecuting uncertified women practising as midwives owing to the difficulty of proving that the practice is for "gain," as required by Section 1 (2) of the Midwives Act. It was agreed to thank the Medical Officer of Health for his letter and to forward a copy to the Privy Council.

VISITOR TO THE LEEDS EXAMINATION.

Dr. Fairbairn was appointed a Visitor to the Oral Examination to be held at Leeds in February next.

REMOVAL FROM THE ROLL.

The applications of four midwives for removal from the Roll were granted.

FALSE CERTIFICATE.

On the report of the Secretary that a false and fraudulent certificate of birth had been tendered to him by a woman desirous of becoming a candidate for the Examination of December 15th, the Board decided that the papers be placed in the hands of the Director of Public Prosecutions and that he be requested to take such action in the matter as he may think fit.

APPLICATIONS.

Mr. Maurice Gerald McElligott, F.R.C.S.I., was approved as a teacher, and Mr. C. W. Iliffe, M.R.C.S., *pro hac vice*.

The following midwives were approved for the purpose of signing Forms III. and IV. :—E. M. Hassell (No. 28674), E. V. Pocock (No. 32423), N. F. Roth (No. 26534), H. F. Walter (No. 32816). A. H. Hughes (No. 29320) was approved *pro hac vice*.

It was agreed to write to the Local Supervising Authority for the County of London pointing out the inconvenience caused to midwives seeking the approval of the Board for the purpose of supervising the practical work of pupils, by the delay in replying to the Board's inquiries as to the fitness of the applicants.

OTHER BUSINESS.

The Board passed a vote of thanks to Sir George Hare Philipson, M.D., F.R.C.P., President of Durham University College of Medicine, for his courtesy in allowing the Board the gratuitous use of the College for the purpose of its Examinations at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The Report of the Finance Committee was adopted, and the date of the next meeting of the Board for January 18th, 1912.

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