

# The Midwife.

## The Central Midwives Board.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held in the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, July 20th, Sir Francis Champneys presided.

### REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

The Standing Committee which met on July 4th reported that it had under consideration the National Insurance Bill so far as it affects the practice of midwives.

It recommended (1) that the following memorandum be adopted as embodying the views of the Board on the National Insurance Bill.

This was endorsed by the Board.

(2) That the Chancellor of the Exchequer be asked to receive a deputation of the Board on the subject.

The Chairman said that he did not think anything further could be done in the matter. He had seen Sir Almeric Fitzroy, Clerk to the Council, who had promised that the Memorandum should be forwarded to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to Lord Morley, and to the draughtsman. The question of a deputation was therefore dropped.

### NATIONAL INSURANCE BILL.

*Memorandum to be Submitted to the Chancellor of the Exchequer by the Central Midwives' Board.*

The Midwives' Act of 1902 was passed in the interests of the mothers and infants of England; this Act recognises midwives as an important body directly concerned with the safety of pregnant, parturient, and lying-in women and their infants.

The results of their work during nearly ten years past are shown in the reduced maternal mortality as appears from the statistics of the Registrar General.

In the Insurance Bill now before Parliament the midwife is ignored.

The Central Midwives' Board urges that this position, which it can hardly believe is intentional, should be so modified in the Bill that free choice should be given to mothers whether they wish to be attended by a medical practitioner or by a midwife.

It is desirable that the position of midwives under the Bill should be recognised and defined, and their duties in respect of maternity benefits distinguished from those of the medical profession.

In our opinion it would be in the interests of the Public Health that a representative of the Central Midwives' Board, as a statutory body, should be upon the Advisory Committee (Clause 42); also that midwives should be represented upon Local Health Committees (Clause 43 (5)).

It would be advantageous that any rules or regulations of a general character relating to maternity benefits should be submitted to the Central Midwives' Board for consideration, this body having been constituted the authority in charge of the regulation of the practice of mid-

wives and having a wide experience thereon.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

On the Report of the Standing Committee which met on July 13th, a letter was received from Dr. Comyns Berkeley, Obstetric Physician to Middlesex Hospital, on behalf of the Weekly Board of the Hospital, with regard to a complaint made by a certified midwife of the inadequacy of the training given at the hospital.

It was agreed that further consideration of the matter should be adjourned to afford an opportunity to members of the Board to visit the Middlesex Hospital, and observe the methods of training adopted at that institution.

A letter was received from the Town Clerk of Sheffield as to the Board's procedure on the citation of midwives against whom *prima facie* cases have been found by Local Supervising Authorities.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk of Sheffield be informed that the Meetings of the Board are open to representatives of the press who have received permission to attend, and that the citation of women against whom Local Supervising Authorities have found *prima facie* cases of malpractice, negligence, or misconduct is a part of the Board's proceedings; that the responsibility of publishing any particular item of business transacted at the meeting rests with the press, and that the Board is not prepared to alter its procedure nor to argue the case further.

A letter was received from a pupil of an approved midwife complaining of the conduct of the latter in refusing to sign her Examination Schedule. It was agreed that the midwife be asked if and why she declines to sign the pupil's schedule.

### APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL.

The applications of the following medical practitioners for approval as teachers were granted. Dr. Meyer Cohen, Dr. Edward J. Cross, Dr. Edward Musgrave Woodman, F.R.C.S.

The applications of the following midwives for approval to sign Forms III. and IV. were granted:—Janetta Clara Lewis (No. 29524), F. Pelley (No. 25943), M. E. Rogers (No. 24204), M. Samuel (No. 31838), and M. A. Wright (No. 24284).

### REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Secretary, who presented the report of the Finance Committee, said that the balance in hand was £1,477 18s. 1d., but this was more apparent than real, as there were cheques to be drawn for £1,114 18s. 1d., leaving a balance of £363. The principal item in the cheques required was £386 13s. 6d. for printing and publishing the Midwives' Roll, which was done by contract. This year it contained 70 odd pages more. Replying to questions from Lady Mabelle Egerton, Mr. Duncan said that there were now 31,625 names on the Roll, and it contained 1,346 pages of names exclusive of other printed matter. The Roll did not cover its expenses, but as many copies as pos-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)