

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, February 22nd, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The correspondence included a letter from the Clerk of the Council notifying that the Lord President had been pleased to appoint the Lady Mabelle Egerton to be a member of the Board for a further period of three years, from January 29th, and from the respective authorities notifying the re-election of Sir Francis Champneys, Mr. Golding-Bird, Mrs. Latter and Dr. Herman as members of the Board for the year ensuing April 1st next.

A letter was read from the Clerk of the Council transmitting a copy of a letter from the National Health Insurance Commission (England) on the subject of draft regulations affecting maternity benefits under the Insurance Act, 1911. (It will be remembered that in accordance with a resolution proposed by Sir George Fordham at the last meeting the Board asked that they might have an opportunity of seeing these regulations.) The letter of the Commission stated that the regulations would be submitted in draft to an Advisory Board, which would include a representative of the Midwives. They should, however, be sent to the Central Midwives Board.

REPORT OF PENAL CASES COMMITTEE.

The reports made, at the request of the Board, on three midwives, by their respective Local Authorities, were considered. Two of these being unfavourable, it was decided to cite the midwives concerned to appear before the Board.

A letter was considered from the London County Council forwarding a report by the Medical Officer of Health on a complaint as to alleged negligence on the part of a certified midwife made by one of the Board's recognised teachers. The matter was referred to the Local Supervising Authority for report.

Letters from the Medical Officer of Health for Newport, Mon., were received alleging breaches of the rules on the part of the Matron and midwives of the Newport and Monmouthshire Training Centre for Midwives. The same course was adopted as in the last case.

A letter was received from Dr. D. J. Morgan, County Medical Officer for Glamorgan, enquiring whether in the opinion of the Board the action of a midwife in making and selling pills for various maladies and conditions amounted to a *prima facie* case of misconduct within the meaning of Section 8 (2) of the Midwives Act 1902. It was agreed to inform Dr. Morgan that the Board is unable to

give an opinion on facts which are not fully before it, and that the matter can be tested in the event of the Local Supervising Authority finding a *prima facie* case to exist and requesting the Board to deal with it as such.

The Committee having considered the case of a certified midwife in the Maternity Department at Guy's Hospital recommended that Counsel be asked to advise the Board on the legal position of certain questions raised. The Chairman reported that this had been done, and Counsel's opinion was that no charge could be sustained. It was decided to communicate this opinion to the London County Council and to the Sister concerned.

It will be remembered that at a recent inquest the Coroner expressed the opinion that the attendance as a midwife at a confinement of a woman not certified under the Midwives Act was contrary to its provisions. The person concerned was a pupil in training at Guy's Hospital.

It was decided to cite 28 midwives to appear before the Board, and it was arranged that special meetings of the Board should be held on Wednesday, March 27th, and Thursday, March 28th, to deal with all the penal cases then ready for hearing.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was received from a certified midwife inquiring as to the antiseptics to be used for cleansing the infant's eyelids as prescribed in Rule E 2 (b). The Board decided to reply that it has designedly refrained from prescribing the use of specific antiseptics.

A letter was considered from Miss Dixon, late Superintendent of the Norfolk County Nursing Federation, with regard to the publication in a nursing journal of the names of two midwives removed from the Roll at the Penal Meeting of the 26th ult. with their respective counties, after a request from the Chairman that these particulars might not be given. The Board decided to inform Miss Dixon that it regretted the incident.

The applications of 24 midwives for removal from the Roll were granted.

The applications of Dr. William Brander, Dr. J. H. P. Fraser, and Dr. M. B. James for recognition as teachers were granted, and the following medical men were approved for the purpose only of signing Forms III. and IV.: Mr. G. T. D. Elder, M.R.C.S., Mr. O. B. Gauntlett, M.R.C.S., Mr. J. P. Grieves, M.R.C.S., Dr. J. S. Lyttle, Dr. J. B. McCutcheon, Mr. C. Sheahan, L.R.C.P.I., and Dr. Joseph Walker.

The application of certified midwife Annie Unwin (No. 10,018) for approval to sign Forms III. and IV. was also granted.

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD.

The Chairman moved, and it was resolved, "that the next meeting of the Standing Com-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)