

entitled to receive the Maternity Benefit. It was estimated that the insurance of its employes, would cost the hospital over £150 per annum. The Chairman made an urgent appeal for additional support for the hospital to enable the committee to clear off the deficit.

### CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, March 14th, Sir Francis Champneys in the chair.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

The correspondence included letters informing the Board that the following members had been re-elected by the respective authorities, as their representatives:—Miss Rosalind Paget, for three years (Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute); Sir H. G. Fordham, for three years (County Councils Association); and Mr. E. Parker Young, for one year (Society of Apothecaries).

#### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was considered from the Medical Officer of Health for Devonport, enquiring (1) As to the giving of a certificate of still-birth by a midwife; (2) As to the attendance at a confinement of a pupil midwife not under the immediate supervision of a certified midwife; (3) As to whether in the opinion of the Board a midwife's superficial examination of the dead body of a child entitled her to certify that the child has not breathed.

The Board decided to reply (1) That the midwife was wrong in giving a certificate of still-birth, as she was not present at the birth; (2) That the trainer is responsible for each case attended by a pupil; (3) That this question is covered by answer (1).

A letter was considered from the Clerk of the Worcestershire County Council, enquiring as to the Board's decision in the case of a certain midwife not to remove her name from the Roll, but to caution her, and to ask for a report from the Local Supervising Authority. The child in this case died, and at the subsequent inquest the jury brought a verdict of neglect and incompetence against the midwife. The L.S.A. asked for information, for future guidance.

It was decided to adopt the letter drafted by the Chairman, and to say that, if the Worcestershire County Council were to send up a reporter to the penal meetings of the Board it would probably understand better the reasons influencing its decisions.

A letter was considered from the Clerk of the London County Council, asking the Board to supply the Local Supervising Authority with a copy of counsel's opinion, on which the Board's decision in the case of Sarah Jane Gibson (No. 3650) was based. The Board decided to reply that it regretted it was unable to comply with the request.

A letter was also read from the Clerk of the London County Council, informing the Board that the Local Supervising Authority had not found a *prima facie* case of malpractice, negligence, or misconduct to be established against the certified midwife as to whom a complaint had been made by one of the Board's recognised teachers. The Board agreed to thank the London County Council for their letter.

A letter was read from an Inspector of Midwives, as to the extent of the obligation to attend to the comfort of the mother and child entailed on a midwife by Rule E. 11. The Board replied that the midwife is responsible if the baby is not properly cared for.

#### APPLICATIONS FOR REMOVAL FROM THE ROLL.

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

#### APPLICATIONS FOR RECOGNITION.

The Worcester City and County Nursing Association was approved as a training school; and Dr. David Fenton as a teacher.

The application of the Secretary for an increase of salary was referred to the Standing Committee. Its decision to be circulated, and come up before the next Board.

The Chairman reported that he had had a conference with the Chairman, Matron, Secretary, and other representatives of the City Road Lying-in Hospital, respecting the supervision of the District Midwives, which had proved most satisfactory.

It was decided that the examination fee for a candidate, excluded from an examination for want of an admission card, should be 15s.

#### REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Chairman reported a deficit, and said that the Board would have to sell out its only remaining security. It was a pity to be obliged to do so now stocks were down, but it was necessary to have a deficit before the funds of the County Councils could be called upon.

#### RESOLUTION.

Mr. Parker Young then moved: "That in the opinion of the Board the time has arrived when steps should be taken to provide for the payment of the expenses of country members when attending meetings of the Board, as recommended in the Report of the Midwives' Act Committee more than two-and-a-half years ago; and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Lord President." In moving the resolution, Mr. Parker Young said they had an excellent precedent in the action of Members of Parliament, who paid themselves £400 a year. Dr. Herman seconded. Mr. Golding Bird said he would be sorry if the recommendation applied to country members only. He was a man of comparative leisure, and expense had never kept him from a meeting, but some of the London members were still earning their living, and their time was valuable. The Chairman thought if they were paid at all they should be paid handsomely. Ultimately the matter was referred to the Standing Committee, to consider and report.

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