

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

A meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, April 18th.

The first business before the Board was the election of a Chairman, and Sir Francis Champneys vacated the chair for the time being, Mr. Parker Young taking his place.

In proposing the re-election of Sir Francis Champneys as Chairman Mr. Parker Young said that the Board had now gone on for 10 years. He himself worked on a number of Boards, and on none of them was there a Chairman who was more competent, more regular, or who took a greater interest in the work of the Board than Sir Francis Champneys. He did not think the public knew the value of the chairman and his work for the community. He had very great pleasure in proposing his re-election. The resolution was seconded by Lady Mabelle Egerton. The re-election of the Chairman, which was by ballot, was unanimous.

Sir Francis Champneys, in thanking the Board for their extremely kind vote and confidence, said: His work on the Board was a labour of love, and whether or no the public recognized it did not affect him one way or the other, but he deeply appreciated the fact that his colleagues on the Board who knew his work had expressed their confidence and approval.

The next business was to receive a letter from the Clerk of the Council informing the Board that the Lord President has been pleased to appoint Professor Henry Briggs, F.R.C.S. Eng., M.B.C.M. Edin., to be a member of the Central Midwives Board for a period of three years from April 1st next in place of Sir William J. Sinclair, M.D., resigned.

The Chairman expressed his pleasure at welcoming Professor Briggs as a member of the Board. He knew him as a good man of business and pleasant to work with.

On the proposition of Mr. Parker Young, seconded by Miss Paget, the Board passed a vote of thanks to Sir William Sinclair for his work on the Board since its formation.

The Finance and Penal Cases Committee were then re-elected.

REPORT OF PENAL CASES COMMITTEE.

The Secretary reported that he had now obtained and cancelled the certificates of Sarah Jackson (late No. 4374), removed from the Roll, March 28th, 1912, and Bridget Mary Marriott (late No. 18879), removed on January 30th, 1912.

The Committee having considered the charges alleged against 16 midwives, recommended that each of them be cited to appear before the Board. The recommendation was adopted, and it was decided to hold a special Penal Meeting of the Board on Thursday, May 30th, at 2 p.m., to deal with all the penal cases and applications then ready for hearing.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was considered from the Clerk of the Derbyshire County Council submitting for the approval of the Board two rules, drawn up and adopted by the Local Supervising Authority with regard to (a) The laying-out of the dead; (b) The quarantine to be observed by midwives after nursing cases of infectious disease. The Board decided to thank the Derbyshire County Council for their communication, and to say that the matter is within their discretion according to the rules.

Letters were considered from a registered medical practitioner complaining of the conduct of a certified midwife in advertising and prescribing. The report of the County Medical Officer thereon was also considered. The Board decided to ask the Local Supervising Authority whether they find a *prima facie* case against the midwife.

Letters were considered from a certified midwife approved by the Board for the purpose of supervising the practical work of pupils as to the period of time during which her pupils are resident with her. The Board decided (a) That the midwife be informed that the Board's intention is that the cases should be taken, so far as possible, and the training proceeded with throughout the period of not less than the three months specified for instruction in the present rules, and that neither the cases nor the instruction should be crowded into a small portion of that period. (b) That all persons approved for signing Forms III. and IV. be asked how far they comply with the above.

Letters were considered from a certified midwife approved by the Board for the purpose of supervising the practical work of pupils asking the Board's opinion as to certain suggested irregularities in the system of lecturing adopted by a recognised teacher.

Letters were considered from two candidates for the examination of April 29th as to the signing of their schedules by the recognised teacher whose lectures they had been attending, although the course of lectures had not been completed at the time of signing.

The Committee considered a complaint by a pupil of an approved midwife as to the failure of the latter to provide for her pupils a course of lectures in accordance with the rules. The Board agreed (a) That a copy of the letter of the approved midwife be forwarded to the recognised teacher, and that he be asked for an explanation; (b) That Nurses A. E. Monica Field and Olive Walters be allowed to enter for the examination of the Central Midwives Board of April 29th; (c) That a copy of the statement of the pupil be furnished to the midwife, and that she be asked for an explanation.

Letters were read from a County Medical Officer asking the board to enquire into a complaint made against the Matron of a Training Home for Midwives by the Executive Officer of a neighbouring Local Supervising Authority.

The Board agreed that the reply as drafted be approved and sent to the County Medical Officer.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)