

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, May 16th, after the meeting of the Finance Committee, Sir Francis Champneys presiding. As the time is an unknown quantity, the Press waited with what patience they might, considering their many engagements; but their patience was strained to breaking point at 5.20 p.m., when the Board meeting at length took place, and the cut and dried Report of the Standing Committee then supplied to them only served to prove that the elimination of matters of interest may be reduced to a fine art.

A letter was received from Sir William Sinclair, thanking the Board for their resolution of thanks for his services, while a member of it. A letter was also read by the Secretary from the organisers of a National Conference, to be held in the Caxton Hall on June 4th, with the object of forming an Association for the Prevention of Infantile Mortality, and the promotion of the health of children under school age. In response to a request therein contained, Dr. Herman was appointed a delegate to the Conference.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was considered from the Clerk of the London County Council, as to the construction of Rule E 25; and the Board decided to reply that, at the time when the Salvation Army Maternity Hospital at Hackney was under consideration, its opinion was that the medical supervision was sufficient to comply with the terms of that Rule.

Mr. Parker Young complained that he was not at the meeting of the Standing Committee, and could not understand the type-written report supplied to him.

The Chairman said he was entitled to have anything he wished explained to him.

A letter was considered from the Medical Superintendent of the Croydon Infirmary, as to the system adopted with regard to the practical training of midwives; and from a certified midwife, asking whether, in the case of trained nurses who are unable to leave their employment for longer than four weeks, their training may be compressed into that period. The request to reduce the period of practical training below three months was refused in each case.

A letter was considered from the Hon. Secretary of the Basingstoke and District Medical Society, Dr. Francis J. Worth, asking the Board to guarantee a fee of £2 2s., in cases where a member of the society is summoned in emergency, on the advice of a midwife; and saying that it had been decided that no member of the Society, which practically

includes all the medical practitioners in the neighbourhood, would go to the assistance of a midwife for a less sum. It was agreed to reply that the Board has no power to guarantee fees.

A letter was considered from a certified midwife, asking the Board's advice as to the payment of a fee claimed by a medical practitioner summoned on her advice. The Board decided to reply that a midwife, having advised that medical aid be summoned, has discharged her duty under the rules, and that it is no part of the Board's duty to give legal advice as to the recovery of fees by a medical practitioner.

The applications of six midwives, for the removal of their names from the Roll, were granted.

APPLICATIONS FOR RECOGNITION.

The applications of Mr. George Augustus Roberts, F.R.C.S., and of Dr. Sidney Algernon Bontor, for recognition as teachers, were approved. The latter *pro hac vice*. The applications of the following medical practitioners for recognition under Rule C 1 (2), were approved: E. J. Chambers, Esq., M.R.C.S., Dr. S. McClure, and Dr. L. L. Westrope. The following midwives were also approved, under the same rule: Misses Jane Aitken, Annie Burton, and Elizabeth J. Tuite.

The application of the Secretary for an increase of salary was granted, to rise by annual increments of £50 to £800.

THE MATERNITY NURSING ASSOCIATION

A largely-attended Drawing-room Meeting on behalf of the Maternity Nursing Association (63, Myddelton Square) was held on the 20th inst. at 1, Great Stanhope Street, the house of the Viscountess Clifden, who took the chair. In her opening remarks the Chairman gave a brief sketch of the work done by the Association in the neighbourhood of Clerkenwell, Finsbury, Holborn, Islington, &c. Last year nearly 1,000 cases were attended and the Association has now branch houses at Camden Town and Homerton, and about twenty-two nurses working for it. Miss Amy Hughes spoke warmly in favour of the work and of the good done, not only by the actual nursing but also by the influence of the nurse in the homes, raising the standard of life and encouraging the mothers to strive for cleanliness and healthiness in the surroundings for the infant.

Mr. F. E. Fremantle, County Medical Officer for Herts—spoke very strongly on the necessity of a thorough training for Midwives and congratulated the Association on this most successful part of their work.

Mrs. Florence Barclay, authoress of "The Rosary," in a charming address on the ideals of

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