

prevented, it should be understood that, for the first day or two, slight discharge and redness, due to the irritation of the solutions used, are not uncommon, occurring approximately in 10 per cent. of the cases. This silver irritation quickly disappears, requiring only cleanliness and prevention of the lids gumming together. A few cold applications may be helpful. Repeated instillations of silver salts are not only unnecessary, but likely to prove harmful.

The eyelids are nearly always closed during labour, so that on opening the lids whatever germs gain entrance into the eye-sac are probably from the eyelashes or on or near the margin of the lids. Therefore, a drop or two of the silver solution placed in the outer portion of the eye-sac, and swept across the eye by the closing of the lids, nearly always reaches all the germs present. It is quite different after inflammation is established and the germs have gained entrance, not only into the upper and lower folds of the sac, but into the recesses of the glands. It is not only necessary that prophylactic measures be used and properly used with attention to detail, but that continual care be exercised that the eyes do not become infected later.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

A Special Meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at Caxton House, Westminster, on May 30th, at 2 p.m., Sir Francis Champneys presiding, for hearing the charges alleged against sixteen midwives, and also to consider three cases adjourned for judgment on the report of the Local Supervising Authority.

CASES ADJOURNED FOR JUDGMENT.

In three cases adjourned for judgment on the report of the Local Supervising Authority, one was again adjourned, in one no further action was taken, and it was decided to ask for a report from the Local Supervising Authority in three months' time in the case of the third.

STRUCK OFF THE ROLL AND CERTIFICATE CANCELLED.

The following midwives for various offences against the rules were struck off the Roll and their certificate cancelled: Margaret Broadbury (No. 14873), Martha Downes (No. 2956), Mary Ann Grix (No. 20371), Caroline Halls (No. 10123), Elizabeth Kimberley (No. 3089), Emma Pitman (No. 5717), Lydia Scott (No. 8544), Mary Ann Wilson (No. 20319).

SEVERELY CENSURED.

Jane Brook (No. 6580), Mary Anne Preece (No. 8168), Mary Ann Southern (No. 1830).

CAUTIONED.

Jane Sillito.

ALLOWED TO RESIGN.

Elizabeth Birch (No. 17877), Sarah Harrison (No. 18715), on the understanding that if the resignation was not received the charges would be dealt with.

ADJOURNED FOR JUDGMENT.

Jane Cliffe (No. 10552).

NO FURTHER ACTION TAKEN.

Mary Jane Barnes (No. 18574) adjourned from March 27th.

In the case of Margaret Broadbury, struck off the Roll on a charge of not explaining that the attendance of a medical man was required in a case of gonorrhœal ophthalmia, in which complete blindness supervened, and also with being unable to use a clinical thermometer, the defence was, in part, that she advised that a doctor should be called in, and the father prevented it.

Amongst the indictments against Jane Brook were that "there being a breech presentation you pulled forcibly on the foetus, severing the head, which was left undelivered. . . . You then left the patient for the night, dissuading her from sending for medical assistance by telling her it was unnecessary. . . . You did not bring with you the appliances or antiseptics required by Rule E. 2." The midwife's defence was that she had no bag, as her husband had destroyed the bag and its contents. She attended the patient and "pulled one portion away." She visited her the next morning, when to her surprise she found a doctor there. Instead of being civil he "rose like a madman"; he was "not fit to do with a human person." The temperature was not raised till he "raved and carried on like a madman."

Jane Cliffe, in reply to the charge that she did not keep a Register of cases, entered a defence that she "kept no pulse and temperature book, which she never considered necessary."

Martha Downes, who was charged with not keeping her appliances and equipment in a cleanly condition and with neglecting and refusing to record the pulse and temperature of her patients, complained in writing that she would not be humbugged by a woman inspector, or have the lining torn out of her bag by her, and that she was "a pert and exacting young woman." She said further that patients were up on the fourth day and if she had to take the temperature after that time she would "have to guess at it the same as the doctors did."

In one case in which two maternal deaths occurred in the practice of a midwife the Medical Officer of Health, who attended before the Board, stated that she had had 750 cases in four years. Though ignorant, she kept herself clean and did her best according to her lights, but her lights were so dim that she was a menace to her patients. She could not take a pulse or temperature.

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