

July 23rd, and to deal on that day with all the penal cases and applications then ready for hearing.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

In the report of the Standing Committee a letter was received from the Clerk of the Council transmitting a copy of a letter received from the East Sussex County Council, forwarding a resolution passed by the Local Supervising Authority in regard to the case of Sarah Linton, No. 16,591, concerning which the Local Supervising Authority has taken exception to the Board's decision at a penal meeting not to remove Sarah Linton's name from the Roll.

The Board decided that a digest of the correspondence and proceedings in the case be sent to the Privy Council with a covering letter.

A letter was received from the Hon. Secretary of the Chelsea Division of the British Medical Association, forwarding a copy of a resolution passed at a meeting of the Division on May 7th, which stated that owing to the difficulty of obtaining fees when summoned in an emergency on the advice of midwives, unless the Guardians would assure their fee the members of the Division would refuse to attend, and, if any accident occurred in consequence, the Coroner at a subsequent inquest would be informed of the position taken up. It was decided to reply that the Board has no jurisdiction in the matter.

Dr. Herman was thanked for his report on his attendance as the representative of the Board at the meeting held on June 4th for the purpose of forming a National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, and the Promotion of the Welfare of Children under School Age.

The names of five midwives were removed from the Roll at their own request.

A draft circular as to signing Examination Schedules, as considered, amended and approved by the Standing Committee, was adopted and ordered to be sent to all recognized teachers and approved midwives.

Mr. Robert Wilson Stuart and Dr. Robert Edward Collins were approved as teachers.

THE CARE OF BACK BLOCK SETTLERS.

To provide in the back blocks a comparatively efficient system of nursing, and especially of nursing in maternity cases is, says a contemporary, a subject which is in New Zealand engaging the attention of the Minister for Public Health (the Hon. G. W. Russell). The brave men and women who go into the back country as pioneers of settlement are often completely cut off from medical help and opportunities to obtain assistance.

These people, the Minister said, deserved the highest consideration; and maternity cases specially appealed to him as having an undeniable claim upon the assistance of the State.

The system of maternity homes established by Mr. Seddon had resulted in the training of many maternity nurses, as well as providing accommodation for those who needed it.

He hoped that the maternity hospital in Auckland would increasingly supply trained nurses, and the Hospital Board would be able to arrange throughout its whole district a system by which mothers in the back blocks could give notice when they would require a trained nurse to be sent to them. In view of the decreasing rate of child birth, and the importance of a vigorous and healthy population, the necessity for providing maternity nurses was one of the most important matters that could be brought before the people.

A means which the Minister considered would be of great assistance in this direction was the establishment at hospitals at such places as Hamilton, where there was no maternity home, of a maternity ward. This would greatly assist in the training of maternity nurses, who could go into the district belonging to the Board, under its auspices, to assist the wives of settlers. He felt so strongly the need for advancing this movement that he was prepared to ask the Cabinet for authority to give special subsidies on subscriptions raised by settlers towards obtaining the services of suitable medical men and midwives to take up practice in the country districts. If the country was to be settled and opened up, the settler must be followed up by the doctor and the nurse.

THE MIDWIFERY STANDARDS IN AUSTRALASIA.

At a recent meeting of the Council of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association a communication was read from the secretary of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association asking the opinion of the Council on the following notice of motion:—"That the rules relating to Midwifery Nurses should be revised so as to include Nurses who have been trained in recognised Midwifery Training Schools, such as the Rotunda and Queen Charlotte Hospitals, provided that they have also received their three years' general training in a recognised training school." In reply it was decided to inform the secretary of the R. V. T. N. A. that by the resolution passed at a Conference of branches of the A. T. N. A., held in Sydney in 1909, the Association was debarred from registering nurses unless they could show proof of having had six months training in a recognised Midwifery Hospital.

We are pleased to note this reply, as high standards exacted from nurses in the Commonwealth cannot justly be undersold by those emigrating from other countries—and from home surely the only midwifery qualification which is recognised is the certificate of the Central Midwives' Board. The more difficult reciprocity is made in our dominions beyond the seas, for our unstandardised qualifications for "Midwifery Nurses" and nurses generally, the more urgent will become the need for a central nursing qualification backed up by legal status in the United Kingdom, and the sooner justice will be done.