

in charge of the deceased. She waited two hours and then left the patient in charge of Nurse Bater. Asked by the Coroner whether it was the habit of the Home to send out unqualified women, and for the midwife to follow them up, she replied in the affirmative.

The Coroner said he hoped the Press would take note of that, so that anyone wanting a midwife would know where not to go. It was no more right to do that than for a doctor to send out an unqualified assistant.

The husband of the deceased woman said that he understood his wife engaged a midwife. When he went to the Home he did not remember if he asked for a midwife. He said: "Will the nurse come at once?"

The patient eventually died of puerperal septicaemia, and the Coroner remarked that instead of getting the midwife, who was engaged, the deceased got a nurse. When they went to "buy a horse they did not want a cow."

Addressing Nurse Martin, the Coroner said that the Sister in Charge of the Home should be told that when a midwife was asked for she ought to be sent, and she ought to follow the case up.

The nurse said that the Sister was away at the time—she was in charge herself, and the Coroner told her to take his remark for herself.

### CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

The monthly meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held in the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, January 18th.

#### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was read from the Director of Public Prosecutions with regard to the case of a woman who had tendered a false and fraudulent certificate of birth with the object of being accepted as a candidate at the Examination of December 15th, 1911.

It will be remembered that the Secretary reported the fact of the deception at the last meeting of the Board and was directed to place the papers in the hands of the Director of Public Prosecutions, who now expressed the opinion that in the circumstances it was probable that no punishment would follow conviction as an appeal would probably be made, in mitigation, and he doubted the advisability of taking action.

Reference was made to a letter from Mr. Pritchard, Secretary of the Maternity Charity, Plaistow, pleading the girl's youth, on account of which she had lost one situation, her mother's poverty, and her anxiety to help her, which induced her to alter the certificate and make it appear that she was a year older than was actually the case.

The Board agreed to thank the Director of Public Prosecutions for his letter and to inform him that it acquiesced in the course which he proposed to adopt.

A letter was received from Mr. T. H. Barlow, of 30, Rodney Street, Liverpool, with regard to

the difficulty which arose through a mistake having been made by two of the examiners at the October examination at Manchester. The draft reply approved by the Standing Committee was adopted.

The Board also approved a new form of Card of admission to the Oral Examination, with the view of affording adequate safeguards against similar mistakes in future.

#### APPLICATIONS.

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

The application of Miss Elizabeth Thomas for approval to sign Forms III and IV was granted, and it was agreed to recognize the signature of Miss E. C. Thompson, *pro hac vice*.

#### REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Secretary reported a balance of £115 at the end of the year, which, however, was not the ultimate balance, as certain items had still to be included in the accounts. There had been an increase in the amount received for the sale of publications owing to the publication of the new rules. The apparent profit on the examinations was £600, but against this must be put the fact that there was no charge for establishment expenditure, clerical work, or stationery.

#### OTHER BUSINESS.

The Chairman gave notice that he would move at the next meeting of the Board that its meetings should be settled for twelve months in advance subject to revision on notice of motion.

Sir George Fordham reminded the Board that part of the benefits with which the Insurance Commissioners would have to deal under the National Insurance Bill were the Maternity benefits. He asked leave to propose a motion of which he had not given notice, that application should be made that their regulations in draft should be sent to the Central Midwives Board with a view to the Board's making any observations upon them.

The Chairman enquired whether there was any urgency in the matter, and Miss Paget said that she recently attended a conference convened by Sir Robert Morant and she thought there was extreme urgency.

The Chairman therefore under the powers he possesses admitted the motion as an emergency resolution, and it was seconded by Miss Paget and carried. It was agreed that it should be forwarded to the Commissioners through the Privy Council.

Sir George Fordham further suggested for the consideration of the Board that the quorum at a Penal Board might conveniently be reduced to three. He also stated that he proposed to bring forward the question of the Standing Committee. He had always been opposed to a Standing Committee and was of opinion that the Board could and should do the work.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for February 22nd.

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