

The Midwife.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

A meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, July 25th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

A letter was considered from the Clerk of the Council referring to the salary of the Secretary of the Board and suggesting that an age limit should be fixed for retirement.

The Board decided (a) that in accordance with the communication received from the Clerk of the Council the salary of the present secretary be increased, as from April 1st last, by annual increments of £25, to a maximum of £750 per annum; (b) that he retire at the age of 65. The question of the Secretary's salary to be subject to revision on the first vacancy. A letter was considered from a candidate who had failed to pass the Board's Examination on two previous occasions, and who for the purpose of obtaining a post falsely stated that she had passed the Examination, asking permission to enter for the next Examination.

It was agreed that the candidate be informed that her certificates of character are void, and that she cannot be admitted to the Examination until the Board is satisfied by special testimony that she is a trustworthy person.

A letter was considered from the Clerk of the Notts County Council suggesting a material modification of the limitations imposed on suspension by Rules F. 2.

It was decided that the letter from the Clerk of the Notts County Council lie on the table.

A letter was considered from the Clerk of the East Sussex County Council, enclosing a copy of a report by the County Medical Officer of Health with regard to the failure of Sarah Linton, No. 16591, to notify the Authority on two occasions when she had advised medical help. The Board decided to forward a copy of the correspondence to the Privy Council.

A letter was considered from the Hon. Secretary of the Norwich Maternity Charity renewing the application of the Charity for permission to hold written examinations at Norwich, and it was decided to grant the application.

A suggestion from the Medical Officer of Health for Manchester that pupil midwives should be obliged to reside with the midwife by whom they are being trained was considered. It was decided that the reply of the Board be that it is not prepared at present to amend the rules in the sense desired.

In connection with a complaint from a candidate who successfully passed the last Examination of the manner in which she had been treated by one of the examiners it was decided that no action be taken in the matter.

Letters were read from the Matron of the Newport Maternity Home and from the Local Supervising Authority as to notifying that Authority. It was decided to reply that the Newport Health Committee be informed that they appear to have misunderstood the Board's letter, and that they also be informed of the Chairman's opinion as communicated to Miss Barrett (the Matron of the Home) and of her undertaking to comply with it, and that the Board trusts there will be no further obstacle to the friendly co-operation of both parties in future.

A letter was considered from the County Medical Officer for Cheshire as to the propriety of advertising by a midwife. The Board adopted the recommendation of the Standing Committee on the motion of Sir George Fordham, seconded by Mr. Parker Young, that the reply be that the Board is unable to express an opinion on matters which may come before it in a judicial capacity.

The applications of five midwives for removal from the Roll were granted, and the Secretary was directed to remove their names from the Roll of Midwives and to cancel their certificates.

THE EXAMINATION.

The Secretary presented a report on the recent Examination giving the analysis of training. The percentage of failures in candidates trained in institutions was 14.6; in private, and institutions, and private tuition, 19.2; the total percentage of failures being 15.6.

THE NEXT EXAMINATION.

The next Examination of the Board will be held in London, Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, and Newcastle-on-Tyne, on October 22nd, 1912.

THE ROTUNDA HOSPITAL.

We desire to draw the attention of our readers to the facilities for training in midwifery and also in monthly and gynaecological nursing, particulars of which will be found on page vi of our advertisement columns. The Hospital is the oldest school of midwifery in the British Empire, and its reputation, both as to the experience available and as to the training available is the highest possible. The Rotunda certificate carries with it prestige to all parts of the world.

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