

yellow card to the doctor who has been retained and is therefore responsible for attending.

4. These provisions will ensure your being able to obtain a doctor's help whenever necessary, and as the safety of the mother, and the preservation of infant life healthy and unimpaired are of prime importance, any midwife who disregards these conditions will be reported to the British Medical Association and to the Midwives' Union; and patients in such cases will be advised to obtain the services of other nurses.
5. Persons who are too poor to pay the fees above-mentioned should be instructed to obtain an order from the Relieving Officer at the Union Offices for the services of the District Medical Officer.

The letter then concludes "I shall be obliged if you will write me stating your approval of the above arrangements and that you will act in accordance with them."

The Chairman moved that the reply be (1) that if the midwife has obeyed the rules of the Board regulating the summoning of medical aid, she has discharged her duties to the patient. (2) That the Board has no authority over medical practitioners. (3) That the correspondence be forwarded to the Privy Council.

Clause 1 and 2 were adopted, but in connection with Clause 3 Mr. Parker Young moved the following rider: "and the Board hope that the Privy Council will take steps to have the Midwives Act so amended as to meet the difficulties that are constantly arising." This was seconded by Mrs. Latter.

In moving his amendment Mr. Parker Young said that there was tremendous friction between midwives and the medical profession. How much longer, he asked, were we to go on without an Amending Act? The Department Committee had inquired and reported years ago concerning the working of the Act but nothing had been done. The Board was aware of a case in which a midwife sent for assistance to nine doctors. Eight refused to attend, and when the ninth arrived the patient was dead. The Government was neglecting to do what it ought to do, and lives were being lost through its laxity.

The Chairman said the motion amounted to a vote of censure on the Lord President ("Hear, hear"). On being put to the vote, two voted for the motion; and three, including the Chairman, against it.

In reply to a request from Mrs. Williamson (Hon. Secretary of the Birkenhead Maternity Hospital) for information as to the administration of the Maternity Benefit under the National Insurance Act, it was decided to inform Mrs. Williamson that the question had been before the General Medical Council, who had made representation on the subject to the Government.

A letter was received from Dr. R. D. Maxwell, one of the Board's examiners, complaining of a

circular issued by a midwife, stating; "Patients attended with or without a doctor; fee, 10s. 6d." It was agreed to reply that no rule of the Central Midwives' Board had been infringed.

A letter was received from the National Health Insurance Joint Committee, enquiring (a) the fee usually payable to a qualified medical practitioner, when summoned on the advice of a midwife; and (b) by what Authority the fee is paid. The Board directed a reply.

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

The following applications were approved: *For recognition as Teachers*—Dr. Mona Dew Roberts, Dr. Joseph Corker, and Dr. James Russell. *Certified Midwife for Approval under Rule C. 1 (2)*—Agness de Froissard.

THE AUSTRALIAN MATERNITY BILL.

Although under the provisions of the Australian Maternity Bill every mother in the Commonwealth who is not an Aboriginal or an Asiatic is entitled to a maximum allowance of £5 if claimed within three months of the birth of her child, there will probably be many women in comfortable circumstances who will not wish to claim this allowance, and it has been suggested that any money which is unclaimed should be applied, through a special fund, for the benefit of needy mothers.

A VALUED OFFICER.

The resignation of Miss Fynes-Clinton, secretary to the Midwives Institute, which is announced by *Nursing Notes*, its official organ, will be received with regret by many midwives, members of the Institute, and others, who appreciated her invariable courtesy to all with whom she came in contact. Miss Clinton has held office for fifteen years, and will still retain the position of Hon. Secretary. She is succeeded by Miss Goodlass, who is both a certified midwife and a trained nurse of varied experience.

A MATERNITY NURSE'S SUCCESSFUL CLAIM.

Miss Fanny S. Lithgow, of Park Avenue, Whitley Bay, successfully sued Mrs. Rachel Atkinson and her husband, of Gloucester Street, Newcastle, last week for breach of contract in the Newcastle County Court. The nurse's case was that she was engaged for March 24th, but was summoned on March 2nd, when she was in attendance upon another patient, whom she could not leave. She would have been quite ready to carry out her engagement at the appointed time, and had refused another case in which better terms had been offered. She had tried to obtain other engagements, but failed and was out of work for two months.

The judge said it was not the nurse's fault that the baby arrived before the expected time and she ought not to suffer. He found for the plaintiff with costs. The sum was fixed at £4 4s.

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