

for approval as Supervisors at the Written Examinations, held at Norwich. The applications were granted.

(4) From the Clerk of the Middlesex County Council, as to the difficulty of prosecuting uncertified women under Section I (2) of the Midwives Act, 1902, for practising as midwives. From Dr. J. R. Kaye, County Medical Officer for the West Riding, on the same subject.

It was agreed that a copy of the correspondence be sent to the Privy Council.

#### APPLICATIONS.

The applications of seven midwives for the removal of their names from the Roll were received, and it was decided that the applications be granted.

The applications of Dr. Norman Barnet Benjafield and Dr. Robert Douglas Laurie, for recognition as teachers, were granted.

The applications of Mr. Samuel T. Lord, M.R.C.S., and Dr. Theodore F. Dillon, for recognition, under Rule C (1, 2), were granted *pro hac vice*.

The applications of the following certified midwives for approval, under Rule C, I (2), were granted: Misses Clara Elizabeth Smith, District Midwife, Royal Maternity Charity, London; Hannah Matilda Wright, Wealdstone; Jane Margaret Ostle, Hammersmith; Minnie Page, Chelsea; Jane Anne Scholfield, Midwife for the Borough of Portsmouth Maternity Charity, and Elizabeth S. Tate, Lady Superintendent Ulster Hospital for Children and Women.

The Secretary presented his report on the recent examination, which he stated was the largest ever held.

The meeting then terminated.

#### CONVICTION UNDER THE MIDWIVES ACT.

The Midwives Act Committee reported to the London County Council, on Tuesday, in connection with the legal proceedings, instituted by the Council against Nora Rolf, of No. 9, Heckfield Place, Fulham, for having habitually and for gain practised midwifery, contrary to the provisions of Section 1 (2) of the Midwives Act, 1902, that the case was heard at the West London Police Court, on November 8th, 1912, when she was convicted, and sentenced to one month's imprisonment, in default of paying a fine of £2 with £1 5s. costs.

#### MATERNITY NURSING ASSOCIATION.

A fancy fair was held last week on behalf of the good work being done in connection with the Maternity Nursing Association, 63, Myddleton Square, Clerkenwell. The Mayor of Finsbury, Alderman H. B. Barton, J.P., was present, wearing his chain of office, and the proceedings were formally opened by the Viscountess St. Aldwyn, who spoke of the benefit of the skill of the staff and their wonderful influence in the interests of

sobriety, morality and goodness. There were a number of attractive stalls, the Provision Stall being in charge of Lady Leach, and the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Blunt; and Miss Muriel, the Matron, and the staff of the Home presided over the Fancy Stall. The receipts amounted to about £150.

#### THE DANGER OF EARRINGS FOR INFANTS.

Just why the poor baby should sport a pair of earrings in this practical age probably no one can explain, says the *Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette*. It is true, just the same, that the practice of piercing baby's ears has survived from an earlier stage, and our district nurses will encounter such cases occasionally. Epstein has been making investigations into the hygienic significance of this procedure and his report in a German periodical is reviewed for the *Archives of Pediatrics*, from which we quote:

Very little has been said about the danger of earrings in infants. Infections of all kinds and severe cases of eczema may result from the wound which has been made during ear piercing in infants. Epstein reports a few cases from the literature in which it has been conclusively shown that tuberculosis may result from ear piercing. He also reports two cases which he had observed and which had developed tuberculosis in this same way (infection from ear piercing).

A relic of barbarism is this custom, without a doubt. Now that we are sparing no pains to keep babies clean inside and out, let us be vigilant in cases where the baby is liable to be imposed upon in this outrageous way.

#### THE CARE OF LYING-IN WOMEN.

The ease with which a woman can "gain a connection" in caring for lying-in patients or the sick is exemplified in the case which we recorded last week, when the solicitor of a woman summoned for breaches of the Midwives Act, of which on one charge she was exonerated, told the Court that she took up the work by accident, having been called in in an emergency in the first instance, and subsequently gaining employment because she was passed on from one case to another. Of course, she cannot practise as a certified midwife. The Midwives Act protects the lying-in woman from being attended by those who have not a certain amount of knowledge, but no minimum amount of knowledge is required before a woman can practise as a nurse. Surely it is time that professional nurses, who know the need of skilled nursing for lying-in women, and the dangers that beset them if their attendants are not skilled, left no step unturned to secure a minimum standard for registered nurses. There are many people even at the present day who think that a kindly woman is all that is necessary for a nurse for the sick—instinct will do the rest. We who know differently should not be content till every member of the public knows it too.

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