

## CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

### THE MONTHLY MEETING.

At the monthly meeting of the Central Midwives' Board, held on December 19th, at which Sir Francis Champneys presided, the following business was transacted.

#### REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

The Standing Committee reported that a false and fraudulent certificate of birth had been tendered by a woman desirous of becoming a candidate for the examination of December 16th. The Board decided to refer the matter to the Public Prosecutor, and that he be asked whether he intends to take proceedings in the case.

In connection with a case reported at the last meeting of the Board, when it was alleged that a certified midwife had given a false reference in order to obtain a post, a letter was read from the Chief Constable of Windsor, suggesting that either the Board or the Matron of the Monmouthshire Training Centre should lay an information against the midwife under the Servants' Character Act of 1792. It was decided to cite the midwife to appear before the Penal Cases Committee.

Replies were received from the following hospitals as to admitting to their midwifery lectures pupils not on the books of the hospital.

The Clapham Maternity Hospital, the East End Mothers' Home, the General Lying-in Hospital, the Kensington Union Infirmary, and the New Hospital for Women expressed their willingness to do so. It is the practice of four out of the five institutions at the present time, the fee for the course varying from £2 2s. to £5 5s.

The British Lying-in Hospital, the City of London Lying-in Hospital, Queen Charlotte's Hospital, and the Home for Mothers and Babies at Woolwich declined to do so, the City of London and Queen Charlotte's Hospitals giving as the reason that the tendency of adopting this suggestion would be to lower the standard of midwifery training by making it easy for pupils to adopt the cheapest and easiest course of training. Queen Charlotte's Hospital further reported that this decision was unanimously adopted at a meeting convened by it with representatives of other Maternity Hospitals.

The authorities of the Home at Woolwich explained that they were shortly amalgamating with the British Lying-in Hospital. A further difficulty in complying with the desire of the Board was that it was the aim of the Home to raise the standard of training for midwives, and trained nurses received six months' training, other pupils twelve months. The lectures would therefore not suit the requirements of ordinary candidates.

The Board decided to communicate with the Maternity Nursing Association, Myddelton Square, E.C., asking whether outside pupils can be admitted at that institution.

The dates of the ordinary Board Meetings for 1913 were announced.

Applications for the removal of their names from the Roll were made by ten midwives. The Secretary was instructed to remove the names and to cancel the certificates.

The application of Dr. Harold Wachter for recognition as a teacher was approved, and that of Dr. Ellis *pro hac vice*.

The application of Miss Edith Smith, certified midwife, for approval to sign Forms III. and IV. was granted.

The meeting then terminated.

### PENAL CASES BOARDS.

A Special Meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, on Wednesday, December 18th, to consider the penal cases. Sir F. Champneys presided. Of the sixteen cases which came under consideration, no less than eleven were struck off the roll.

#### STRUCK OFF THE ROLL AND CERTIFICATE CANCELLED.

Jane Brook (No. 6,580), Bradford; Elizabeth Calcroft (No. 2,845), Notts; Mary Jane Dearden (No. 5,862), Lancashire; Fanny Emery (No. 1,955), Salop; Mary Ann Hammond (No. 20,844), West Suffolk; Annie Mason (No. 2,037); Staffordshire; Ann Rumble (No. 18,913), Kent; Alice Rebecca Webb (No. 20,824), Bucks; Sarah Carr (No. 20,784); Annie Griffiths (No. 20,843), Salop; Sarah Linton (No. 16,591), East Sussex.

#### CAUTIONED.

Mary Ann Exley (No. 30,969), West Riding.

#### ADJOURNED TILL SATURDAY.

Sarah Camps (No. 5277), Lancashire.

#### ADJOURNED.

Elizabeth Elliman (No. 17,707), Devon. Local Supervising Authority to be asked to report in three and six months. Mary Jane Davies (No. 12,018), Merthyr Tydfil. Local Supervising Authority to be asked to report if she can and does use a thermometer. Emma Snowling (No. 20,692), Great Yarmouth. Local Supervising Authority to be asked to report on her work. If she does not improve, to be struck off.

The remaining cases on the agenda were left over for consideration on Saturday, December 21st.

In all the deaths of four women were reported; one case of complete blindness in the infant, and one of blindness of one eye.

In the case of Sarah Carr, aged 80, it was stated that she had been practising for fifty-six years. She wrote saying it was not true that she was dirty; she had always kept herself clean, having nothing else to do. The doctor had thought her clean enough when she delivered a patient three times for him and he had done nothing but receive the fees. Patient in question died of puerperal fever. Mary Ann Exley explained a charge of assault, and her subsequent imprisonment for ten days, as the result of extreme provocation from a neighbour, who "struck me with a pint pot. If I am a midwife, I am not to be crucified."

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