

The Midwife.

TWIN PREGNANCIES.

The following are notes of cases of twins delivered in the Cama and Allbless Hospitals, Bombay, during December, 1912:—

I.

17/12/12.—MARY, Goanese, 18 years. Admitted 4 a.m., 17th; pains began 2 a.m.

Admitted with dilatation large wineglass; membranes ruptured before admission; full dilatation 4.30 a.m.

First Child.—Delivered 5 a.m., 4 lb., 16 in., cord 16 in.

Second Child.—Delivered 5.10 a.m., 3½ lb., 15½ in., cord 15 in.

Primipara.—Perinæum intact; no hæmorrhage; gave history of œdema of legs for nine months, and scanty micturition. All did well. Both children female.

II.

22/11/12.—AVABAI, Hindu, 30 years. Pains began 10 a.m. 22nd, fully dilated 3.15 p.m. Membranes ruptured 3.25 p.m.

First Child.—Female. Delivered 3.15 p.m. 4 lb. 8 oz., 15 in., cord 17 in.

Second Child.—Male. Delivered 3.25 p.m., 4 lb. 2 oz., 16 in., cord 20 in.

First vertex, second breech; placenta 1 lb. 12 oz. History of rigor and fever two days. 4 p.m., T. 105.4; 6 p.m., T. 102. Cough and œdema of legs two months. Respirations very hurried and irregular. Normal saline given subcutaneously, one pint. Adrenalin Mxx hypodermically. Died 6.45 p.m. 22nd. Female child died 26th. Male child sent to the Nasik Home 27th.

III.

27/12/12. (2 a.m.).—ASHABAI, age 24. Dilatation size of rupee (a rupee is about the size of two-shilling piece).

Membranes ruptured 5.45 a.m.; full dilatation 7.30 a.m.

First Child.—Delivered 8.15 a.m., 4 lb. 12 oz., 16 in., cord 18 in.

Second Child.—Delivered 2.15 p.m., 4 lb. 14 oz., 16 in., cord 18 in.

Both female. Placenta, 2 lb., removed 3 p.m. by hand, being adherent. Uterine douche given. All discharged well.

It is remarkable that of these children and of those in the case of triplets recorded last week, nine in all, only one is male.

S. G. TINDALL,

Lady Superintendent.

(President Trained Nurses' Association of India.)

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

A meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, on Thursday, February 20th, when letters were received from the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons and the Society of Apothecaries, announcing that Sir Francis Champneys, Bart., M.D., Mr. Golding Bird, F.R.C.S., and Mr. E. Parker Young, L.S.A., had been reappointed for the year ensuing, from April 1st next, as the representatives of these bodies respectively.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

In connection with the Report of the Standing Committee, a letter was received from the mother of a candidate who had tendered a false and fraudulent certificate of birth when endeavouring to enter for the examination of February 10th, 1913.

The Standing Committee were of opinion that the falsification of the certificate was done without the candidate's knowledge, and under these circumstances they recommended the Board to allow the candidate to present herself at the next examination after her twenty-first birthday, according to the birth certificate from Somerset House, and that the mother be informed that a person falsifying a certificate renders himself or herself liable to a penalty of twelve months' hard labour. Also that Training Schools should be advised to satisfy themselves that the dates on the birth certificates of pupils have not been tampered with.

A letter was received from the Medical Officer of Health for Leicester, suggesting that a midwife's remuneration should be a first charge upon the Maternity Benefit payable to her patient.

It was agreed that the Medical Officer of Health for Leicester be informed that the Board has no power to deal with the payment of midwives.

A letter was received from the Secretary of the Wigan and District Guild of Midwives calling attention to the frequent cases of midwifery practice by uncertified women in the Borough of Wigan. It was agreed that the Secretary of the Wigan and District Guild of Midwives be informed that an amendment of the Midwives Act by the omission of the words "habitually and for gain" is highly desirable, and that the Board has made repeated suggestions to this effect.

A letter was received from the Clerk of the West Sussex County Council asking the Board's opinion as to whether in the circumstances mentioned a woman acts as a midwife or as a monthly nurse. It was agreed that the Clerk of the West Sussex County Council be informed that the question depends upon the fact as to which of the two is engaged to attend the labour *if normal*.

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