

A letter was received from the Clerk of the Cheshire County Council, forwarding an extract from the Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council held on February 13th, 1913, with reference to proceedings contemplated against an uncertified woman practising as a midwife.

It was agreed that the Clerk of the Cheshire County Council be informed that an amendment of the Midwives Act by the omission of the words "habitually and for gain" is highly desirable, that the Board has made repeated suggestions to this effect, and that if this were done prosecutions under the Act would probably be undertaken within the time limit of the Summary Jurisdiction Act.

A letter was received from the Honorary Secretary of the Buckland District Nursing Association, Devon, as to the undertaking of cases of tuberculosis by district nurses practising as midwives.

It was agreed that the Honorary Secretary of the Buckland District Nursing Association, Devon, be informed that the case is covered by Rule E 5.

APPLICATIONS.

The applications of ten midwives for removal from the Roll on the grounds of old age, ill-health, and inability to comply with the rules were granted.

The application of Dr. David Hepburn, Professor of Anatomy at Cardiff University, for recognition as a teacher was granted for anatomy, jointly with Dr. Maclean.

The applications of the following registered medical practitioners for approval under Rule C 1 (2) were granted *pro hac vice*: Dr. Richard Davidson, Dr. Joseph Rickards, and Mr. John Frederick Twist, L.S.A.

The application of Miss A. D. Murphy, Superintendent of the Training Home, Worcester, for approval under Rule C 1 (2) was granted.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR.

The Chairman stated that a report of the work of the Board for the last year had been prepared and would be made public at a later date.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Chairman stated that there was a larger yearly deficit than usual, which was due to the extension of the work of the Board, especially the penal work. This again was due to the fact that the Local Supervising Authorities were taking more interest in looking after delinquents.

OTHER BUSINESS.

The Secretary then read a letter addressed to Miss Paget concerning the suspension of a midwife, making the following statement:

"Nurse Gwen Davies, village nurse midwife at Penrhynside, near Llandudno, was called to a woman who had been attended by an untrained gamp, and who was pronounced to be suffering from puerperal fever.

"On November 7th the Inspector of Nuisances and Sanitary Surveyor, County Offices, Conway, wrote to Nurse Davies and asked her to communicate with Dr. Travis, the Medical Officer of Health for Llandudno on the matter.

"On December 3rd Dr. Travis wrote to Nurse and told her that she must cease from attending any other confinement cases for a month.

"On December 31st he wrote again certifying that she was able to resume her midwifery.

"Dr. Travis had no authority for suspending the nurse, and during the interval the local association was unable to carry out their agreement with four cases for which her services had been engaged."

The Chairman said that the point of the prolonged suspension of midwives had come up from time to time. The policy of the Central Midwives Board was embodied in Rule F. The period for the disinfection of a midwife, in respect of herself, her appliances, and her clothing, was usually 24 hours, and if for any reason a longer suspension was required by the Local Supervising Authority, the fact and the reason for it should be reported to the Board. This suspension was not reported to the Board, nor had the Local Supervising Authority any knowledge of it.

The Board had no jurisdiction over medical men, but it had some power of protecting the midwife. It was, said the Chairman, determined to uphold any midwife who, after adequate disinfection to the satisfaction of the Local Supervising Authority, resumed work, even though prohibited from so doing by the local authority.

THE ROYAL MATERNITY CHARITY.

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Maternity Charity of London held on February 12th reassembled on February 19th at 31, Finsbury Square, London, E.C., as a Special General Meeting to consider the motion put by Mrs. Lee and seconded by Miss Rosalind Paget, "that the Royal Maternity Charity 'letters' may be used for assured persons who are the wives of casual labourers, or are themselves casually employed, and in needy circumstances; either as free cases or for the 'letter' to be used as part payment of the midwife." Mr. Thomas Whittington presided.

Captain Tasker, speaking as the Chairman of the General Committee suggested that the resolution should be withdrawn as it was open to the construction that it was a vote of censure on the Committee.

The Chairman of the Meeting was of opinion that the resolution did not involve any slight to the Committee.

Captain Tasker thought that it should be left to the General Committee during the next year to determine cases on their merits. He was sure that all, both those who were in favour of the motion and those who were against it were in accord in wishing to help the needy, but at present there was a great deal of confusion in regard to the Insurance Act, and it would be wiser to leave the General Committee to act as they thought fit.

The Chairman said he was willing to give every facility for the discussion of this motion to which

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