

The Midwife.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

A meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, May 22nd, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was considered from the Clerk of the Bedfordshire County Council suggesting that the Rules should be amended so as to entail an obligation on the midwife to advise medical assistance in any case in which the patient's temperature rises to above 100 deg. Fahr. in the morning on two successive days.

It was agreed that the Clerk of the Bedfordshire County Council be informed that his suggestion will be noted for consideration at the next revision of the Rules.

A letter was considered from the Medical Officer of Health for Newport, Monmouthshire, asking the opinion of the Board as to whether a register of cases kept by more than one midwife in common should be so arranged as to distinguish the records of each individual midwife.

It was agreed that the substance of the letter from the Medical Officer of Health for Newport, Monmouthshire, be communicated to the Matron of the Monmouthshire Training Centre and that she be asked if she has any observations to make thereon.

A letter was considered from the Medical Officer of Health for the County of Durham asking the opinion of the Board as to whether an uncertified person attending a woman in her confinement in company with a registered medical practitioner, and afterwards alone attending the mother for ten days without supervision from the medical practitioner, is guilty of an offence under Section 1 (2) of the Midwives Act, 1902.

It was reported that at the meeting of the Standing Committee the chairman moved "That the Medical Officer of Health for the County of Durham be informed that under the circumstances described by him the uncertified woman appears to have acted as a monthly nurse and not as a midwife."

At that Committee Sir George Fordham moved, and Lady Mabelle Egerton seconded, as an amendment, "That as the facts submitted might become the basis of a prosecution under Section 1 (2) of the Midwives Act, 1902, and be thus the subject of a decision of a Court of Law, the Board do not think it desirable that they should express any opinion upon them."

On being put to the vote the amendment was lost, and the original motion carried as a recommendation to the Board.

The amendment was again proposed at the

Board meeting and lost, two voting for it and four against. The recommendation of the Standing Committee was then carried. Sir George Fordham asked that the names of those voting might be recorded.

A letter was read from a certified midwife approved for the training of pupils, calling the attention of the Board to an arrangement made by a registered medical practitioner to attend midwifery cases with a midwife or an uncertified woman for a fee of 10s. 6d. provided he were not sent for until the case was over, his fee, if sent for, to be 21s.

The Board agreed that the certified midwife be informed that the Board has no jurisdiction over medical practitioners. We think the Board might well have advised the midwife to refer the matter to the General Medical Council, and if the Board does not take action we advise the midwife to communicate with the Council, the address of which is 299, Oxford Street, London, W.

A letter was read from the Clerk of the Hants County Council calling the attention of the Board to the system adopted by a midwife approved by the Board for training pupils in sending a pupil to act as her substitute in nursing a patient after her confinement.

It was agreed that the Clerk of the Hants County Council be informed that the Board has carefully considered the facts as stated in his letter, but it does not think that they prove that the midwife did not exercise adequate supervision nor that the pupil was acting as an uncertified midwife.

The applications of seven midwives for the removal of their names from the Roll were granted.

APPOINTMENTS.

Dr. W. H. Whitehouse was appointed an examiner for the Birmingham Centre, and Dr. Miles H. Phillips and Dr. J. H. Willett for Manchester.

The following registered medical practitioners were approved under Rule C. 1, 2:—Dr. David Jones Hughes; and Mr. W. J. Lewis, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., *pro hac vice*.

The following certified midwives were approved for the purpose of signing Forms III and IV:—Miss Elizabeth L. Hill, Queen's District Midwife, Rawtenstall; Miss E. M. L. Sladen, Superintendent Taunton District Nursing Association.

The Secretary presented the report of the forty-sixth Examination of Midwives by the Board, of which we have already published the names of successful candidates. The percentage of failures was a high one, 20 per cent. in candidates sent up by the training schools, and 25.4 in those privately prepared.

The Chairman stated that when candidates appear to be badly prepared the examiners are

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