

# The Midwife.

## FREE CHOICE FOR PATIENTS.

We are asked by Miss Amy Hughes, General Superintendent of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, to give prominence to the following letter, which she has received in reply to a request, addressed by her to the Commissioners, for advice, in removing a misapprehension which has been found to exist in various parts of the country on the important point with which it deals:—

[Copy.]

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE COMMISSION  
(ENGLAND),  
Buckingham Gate,  
London, S.W.,

January, 1913.

MADAM,—In reply to your letter of January 14th, I am directed by the National Health Insurance Commission (England) to state that under Section 18 of the Insurance Act every woman by or in respect of whom Maternity Benefit is claimed is free to choose whether she should be attended by a midwife or a doctor and has a free choice in this selection of the doctor or midwife.

There is, therefore, no foundation whatever for the assertion which you state to have been made in certain parts of the country that Maternity Benefit was not payable unless the confinement was attended by a doctor.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) ROBERT L. MORANT.

## CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

A Meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, January 16th.

At the instance of Mr. Parker Young, a note of a resolution proposed and seconded, though lost, at the Special Meeting of the Board, on December 21st, was inserted on the minutes. Mr. Parker Young considered that if a resolution were proposed and seconded, whatever its fate, there should be a record of it.

He considered also, in relation to the Special Meeting of the Board on January 7th, the fact that a resolution excluding the press was carried, should be put down; and the Chairman, with the consent of the Board, added the following words to the minutes of that date: "A motion was carried that the proceedings be held in camera."

### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

The Report of the Standing Committee was received; and a letter was received from the

Director of Public Prosecutions, with regard to the case of the woman who had tendered a false and fraudulent certificate of birth, when endeavouring to enter for the Examination of December 16th, 1912. It was agreed (a) That the Public Prosecutor be thanked for his communication, and that the Board act on his advice; and (b) that the new case be communicated to the Public Prosecutor, for his information.

Letters were received (a) from the Matron of the Maternity Nursing Association, Myddelton Square, E.C., stating that the Executive Committee of the Association is prepared to accommodate not more than eight outside pupils at the lectures held for candidates entering for the Examination of the Central Midwives' Board, on certain conditions; and (b) from the Secretary of the Royal Maternity Charity of London, suggesting that the Board might utilise the existing Training School of the Charity, in connection with the proposal that all lectures for pupils in London entering for the Examination of the Central Midwives' Board should be held at one of the Training Institutions. It was decided that the Secretary of the Royal Maternity Charity be thanked for his letter, and that it be considered when the list of lecturers is revised.

A letter was read from Dr. W. J. Howarth, County Medical Officer for Kent, asking the Board's opinion as to whether pulmonary tuberculosis should not now be regarded as an infectious disease, and consequently within the prohibition contained in Rule E 17 (b), as to laying out the dead. It was agreed that Dr. Howarth be informed that the answer to the question will be found in Rule E 17 (b). (This rule provides that a midwife does not transgress the regulation relating to the laying out of dead bodies, if at the discretion of the Local Supervising Authority she lays out a dead body in a case of non-infectious illness, provided that she is not attending a midwifery case at the time.)

### APPLICATIONS.

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

The applications of Mr. James Prior, M.R.C.S., Workhouse Medical Officer to the Dewsbury Board of Guardians, and of Mr. Gerald Graham Aldeson, F.R.C.S., Obstetric Assistant at University College Hospital, for recognition as teachers were granted.

### REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

In connection with the Report of the Finance Committee, it was decided to obtain tenders for printing and stationery from Messrs. Spottiswoode, and other firms.

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