

The Midwife.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

PENAL CASES MEETING.

A Special Meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, S.W., to consider charges against eight certified midwives, most of whom appeared, and were defended by their solicitors, with the following results.

STRUCK OFF THE ROLL AND CERTIFICATE CANCELLED.

Mrs. Harriet Barton (No. 20970), cert. Cork Lying-in Hospital; Mrs. Ann Elwood (No. 15636), Mrs. Emma Gleeson (No. 19461), cert. London Obstetrical Society; Mrs. Unice Roseanna Stimpson (No. 31992), cert. Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin.

CENSURED.

Mrs. Margaret Duckworth (No. 11654), cert. Liverpool Lying-in Hospital.

SENTENCE POSTPONED FOR SIX MONTHS, AND LOCAL SUPERVISING AUTHORITY TO BE ASKED TO REPORT IN THREE AND SIX MONTHS TIME.

Mrs. Emily Dean (No. 18529), Mrs. Arabella Matilda Hopton (No. 10731), Mrs. Elizabeth Wilks (No. 20038).

The case of Mrs. Barton was a curious one, as the medical man called in to one of her patients, four days after confinement, made a declaration that he removed a large portion, probably the whole, of the placenta and membranes; whereas Mrs. Barton, who appeared to be an intelligent woman, declared that the birth of the placenta was effected quite easily, and that it was intact.

Mrs. Stimpson attributed the rise of temperature in one of her cases to the currant cake and stout in which the patient indulged on the third day after confinement. She subsequently died of puerperal fever.

In the case of Margaret Duckworth, the Board considered that the patient lost her life owing to the midwife not discovering that the ante partum hæmorrhage was due to placenta prævia, subsequently diagnosed as "central" by the doctor called in; but having regard to favourable report sent by Dr. Hope, Medical Officer of Health for Liverpool, the Board took a lenient view, and decided to censure the midwife, and ask for a report of her work in three months time.

Mrs. Dean, who was charged with not employing antiseptic precautions (a charge the Board did not consider proved), declared that she used a shilling bottle of Lysol every week. In reply to the charge that she administered a drug other than a simple aperient, without making any record in her register, her defence was that she did not make the drug up. The patient wished for a bottle of "strengthening medicine" from the chemist, and she fetched it as an errand.

Questioned by the Chairman as to the highest temperature she had seen registered, she declared she had never known one above 100 degs. in any of her patients, though she had been thirty-one years a midwife, nor had she known a pulse go up above 100. She declared, "I can't make it go up if it won't; and I can't put it down if it won't go up."

Another midwife declared she had never known a patient's temperature above 100 degs.; and considered 90 degs. usual.

Possibly, if the Board ascertained from the midwives they cross-examine whether their practice is to take the temperature with the thermometer in the case or out of it, they might be surprised at the answers they receive.

LIST OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.

JUNE EXAMINATION.

At the Examination of the Central Midwives Board, held on June 9th, 539 candidates were, as we reported last week, examined, and 430 passed the examiners. The percentage of failures was 20.2.

LONDON.

City of London Lying-in Hospital.—M. Aylward, F. H. G. Bridge, E. A. Curtis, V. M. Godfrey, G. E. Howe, E. R. Jack, A. Lloyd, E. A. Penfold, L. E. Sheppard, D. C. L. Storch, A. L. Stuart.

Clapham Maternity Hospital.—C. I. Clark, M. P. Drake, S. Ramsden, M. P. Smith.

East End Mothers' Home.—F. L. Atkins, N. Earl, G. L. Faulkner, E. F. Hands, G. M. Knight, M. J. Lloyd, A. M. Long, L. Martins, E. K. Roberston, E. Sprott, S. L. Thatcher.

Forest Gate Sick Home.—J. Fergusson, A. L. Roadnight.

General Lying-in Hospital.—H. M. Bradshaw, L. E. Constant, M. Doggett, F. Easy, F. Edwards, E. S. J. Foreman, A. Mason, F. Stevens, M. A. Trimmer, K. B. Vincent.

Guy's Institution.—M. Bourdillon, I. M. H. Thomas.

Kensington Union Infirmary.—E. M. James.

Lambeth Parish Workhouse.—I. Russell.

London Hospital.—M. Anslow, C. K. Baillie, W. F. Baker, H. Ferguson, J. E. Harrison, K. D. Hobbs, V. Hubbard, K. Shrigley.

Maternity Nursing Association.—G. A. Bath, E. A. Bull, K. M. Cohen, E. M. Haile, M. A. Hawkes, E. E. Ninn.

Middlesex Hospital.—K. G. Aspinall, A. J. Bowman, F. Moulson, J. Sibley.

New Hospital for Women.—R. M. Barrow-Clough, E. McKerrow.

Plaistow Maternity Charity.—E. E. Barrett, A. M. Beesley, S. M. Beesley, L. Chadwick, E. Chew, B. H. Drummond, E. A. Hood, F. Hurst, A. Jackson, E. Kershaw, B. Lee, H. MacDonald, E. M. Mansbridge, M. A. Midgley, A. M. Newell,

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