

The Midwife.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

A special meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, July 3rd, at 2 p.m., to consider charges alleged against ten certified midwives, all of whom were struck off the Roll and their certificates cancelled. They were: Joanna Bolt (No. 15692), Mary Elizabeth Davey (No. 16390), Jane Ellacott (No. 3852), Rebecca Howarth (No. 19490), certificated St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, Diana Jones (No. 7977), Mary Ann Lee (No. 17343), Mary Ann Owen (No. 20803), Martha Palmer (No. 1600), Augusta Watts (No. 4983), and Mary Ann Wood (No. 15951).

One of the charges against Mrs. Mary E. Davey was "that you follow a trade which is not compatible with the scrupulous cleanliness required in a midwife by Rule E 1. In a Statutory Declaration the Inspector of Midwives for Glamorgan stated that Mrs. Davey followed the trade of cleaning the internal parts of pigs' carcasses at her own house. Mrs. Davey in her reply to the charges wrote that she had assisted her daughter in this work up to two years ago. One patient wrote that she had had seven children and that Mrs. Davey was the best and cleanest nurse she had ever had.

Diana Jones was stated to have informed the husband of a patient who wished a doctor called

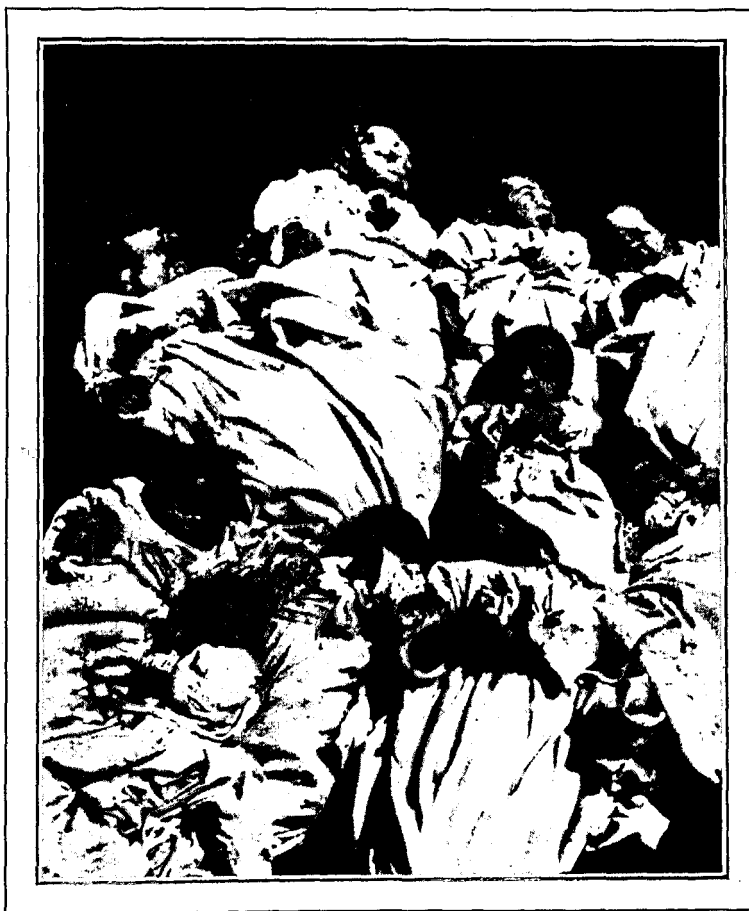
in to his wife that it was "throwing money away." When called in by the husband a medical man diagnosed the complaint from which the patient was suffering as acute septic phlebitis, of which she died.

Mrs. Mary Ann Owen, aged eighty, who attends about thirty-four cases a year, claimed that she was "equal to a person of sixty and active."

She had been in practice as a midwife for fifty years.

Mrs. Martha Palmer, aged seventy-nine, said that she had been going out as a midwife for forty years and the present was the first complaint against her. In reply to the request of the Board for her certificate, and register of cases she declined to send them saying that they were her own as she paid for them.

The average age of these ten midwives was over sixty-six and a-half years, and five were seventy or over. The adoption of an age limit would seem desirable.



A GROUP OF BABIES AT THE YORK ROAD HOSPITAL, S.E.

BABIES AT THE YORK ROAD HOSPITAL.

The charming illustration of babies at the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, S.E., which we are able to present on this page is proof not only of the excellent work done in that institution, but also that babies when skilfully and intelligently cared for are happy and contented. It would surely not be possible to find a more placid collection of babies than those here depicted, and yet the mothers of many come from poor homes, and have had strenuous days up to the time of their confinements.

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