

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

MONTHLY MEETING.

The Monthly Meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held on December 18th at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster. Sir Francis Champneys presided, and on the report of the Standing Committee a letter from one of the Board's examiners, asking the Board to reconsider its refusal to approve Mary Robinson, No. 33946, for the purpose of training candidates for the Board's examination in practical work, was further considered. It was resolved that the application be granted on certain conditions.

A letter was read from the Superintendent Nurse of the Dewsbury Union Infirmary asking whether, under the conditions specified, she may sign the examination schedules of candidates in respect of their attendance on cases. It was agreed that the leave requested be granted on condition that the Superintendent Nurse satisfies herself with regard to every case that the requirements of the Board are fulfilled.

APPLICATIONS FOR REMOVAL FROM THE ROLL.

Applications were received from seven women for the removal of their names from the Roll, and the Secretary was directed to remove their names from the Roll of Midwives and to cancel their certificates.

APPLICATIONS FOR RECOGNITION AS TEACHER.

The following applications for recognition as teacher were granted:—Lewis Archer Buck, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., Peverell Smythe Hichens, M.D., F.R.C.P.

The following application was granted *pro hac vice*:—Kenneth John Aveling, M.B.

APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL TO SIGN FORMS III. AND IV.

The applications of the following medical men were granted *pro hac vice*:—Lionel Handson, M.B., Charles William Howe, M.B., D.P.H.

The applications of the following midwives were also granted:—Ellen Jones (No. 27444), Alice Ann Bullock (No. 32893), Kathleen May (No. 28086). Also that of Hannah Sidney Llewellyn (No. 34625), subject to the lectures being attended at the Kensington Union Infirmary or the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road.

It was arranged that the next meeting of the Penal Board should be held on January 27th.

PENAL BOARD.

A Special Meeting of the Central Midwives Board, to consider charges against thirteen midwives was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, on Friday, December 19th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding, with the following results:

STRUCK OFF THE ROLL AND CERTIFICATE CANCELLED.—Mary Brookhouse (No. 3848), Elizabeth Mary Dean (No. 7195), Elizabeth Good (No. 17318), Jane Harvey (No. 16800), Sarah Hodges (No. 18854), Jane Jones (No. 17630), Harriet Sutton (No. 19689), Harriet Venton (No. 18358).

CENSURED.—Emilie Victoria Pocock (No. 32423).
CAUTIONED.—Sarah Ann Crowe (No. 11074).
SENTENCE SUSPENDED.—Eliza Scoltock (No. 5388).

NO ACTION TAKEN.—Alice Locker (No. 8213), Christina Shaw (No. 5741).

The cases against the last two mentioned midwives completely broke down. In the first place it appeared that a medical man, not the midwife, was in charge of the case and Mrs. Locker was acting as a maternity nurse. Consequently it was no part of her duty to advise that medical assistance was required or to notify the Local Supervising Authority. These charges were, in consequence, struck out. The most serious was of the medical man who informed the midwife that he should report her, and stated that on his arrival, the perineum was ruptured owing to the midwife pulling on the posterior vaginal wall because the patient did not progress quickly enough to please her. On his arrival the head was still well up in the pelvis. The patient declared that the midwife was competent and did not hurt her, and the Chairman said that the Board were not satisfied with the evidence and did not consider this charge proved.

In the case of Christina Shaw the principal charge was that the child was suffering from malformation and deformity, namely, an imperforate anus, and from disquieting symptoms consequent thereon, that she did not advise medical help.

The Chairman stated that the Board did not agree with the view of the Local Supervising Authority. The charge was not proved, the midwife was able to pass a soap suppository for an inch into the child's rectum and directly she suspected something wrong she took the child to a doctor. He could not have done more himself. She had attended the patient with great care, and proved herself, at any rate in this case, a competent and careful midwife. The Board regretted she had been put to the inconvenience of coming up.

The other midwives who appeared before the Board were Mrs. Crowe, and Miss E. V. Pocock, a midwife who takes outside cases for Queen Charlotte's Hospital; the charge against her being that she did not advise medical assistance in a case of twins suffering from inflammation of, and discharge from the eyes.

THE LAST WORDS FOR 1913.

Beautiful hands are those that do
Work that is earnest, brave and true,
Moment by moment the whole day through.
Beautiful feet are those that go
On kindly ministries to and fro,
Down the loneliest way if God will so.
God help us to find ourselves, by losing ourselves
in caring about "the other man."
Freshen the air with wind
Comfort my heart with song
Let thoughts be lilies pure, and life
A river bright and strong.