

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

A special meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Tuesday, January 27th, Sir Francis Champneys presided.

(a) In connection with cases adjourned for judgment on the report of the Local Supervising Authority, from June 26th, 1913, the following midwives were struck off the Roll:—Emily Dean (18529); Arabella Matilda Hopton (10731).

(b) Judgment was passed on eight midwives as follows:—(1) Philadelphia Crouch (2568), struck off; (2) Mary Sophia Dodds (17706), struck off; (3) Emily Matilda Garrad (23733), C.M.B. examination, cautioned; (4) Dorcas Maria Hodgson (4585), L.O.S. certificate, charges not proved; (5) Frances Frampton Hood (18390), L.O.S. certificate, struck off; (6) Mary Ellen House (3568), judgment suspended; (7) Caroline Large (2681), struck off; (8) Ellen Stanley (24231), C.M.B. examination, struck off.

Emily Mary Garrad, who appeared in person, pleaded that she was not aware of the rule directing that the temperature should be taken daily. She had never been provided with a copy of the last rules of the Central Midwives Board. The chairman directed that the attention of the Local Supervising Authority should be called to the fact. This midwife was also charged with negligence, in that she failed to explain that the case was one in which a doctor was required. This charge was not considered proved. There was some conflicting evidence as to the nature of the patient's illness. Her sister, who appeared as a witness for the midwife, stated that the doctor who was summoned said, "You have been eating rotten dirty oysters." The patient replied "I never eat none." He said "You have." The M.O.H. pronounced the case to be enteric. The patient was removed to the hospital. It was afterwards diagnosed as puerperal fever.

Dorcas Maria Hodgson, who holds the L.O.S. certificate, was charged with negligence in respect of three infants. In one case the evidence of the doctors was again in conflict, one certifying that on July 26th the child was suffering from simple conjunctivitis, and another on the same date certifying that there was nothing wrong with the eyes. The Board accepted the latter opinion, as the former was a statutory declaration given five months after the occurrence, the latter being written on the day the child was seen. The inspector on the other hand had seen the child on the 25th, and reported the eyes were in a bad state. Two charges were held not proved, and the third was struck out.

Mary Ann Ellen House, who in a letter beginning "Dear sir, I am only a human being like yourself," was charged with negligence in respect of an infant under her care. She explained that the doctor had said it was suffering from a congenital disease, and that she was not responsible. It was said that all the children had bad eyes.

In the case of Ellen Stanley, a midwife who had passed the C.M.B. Examination, one of the charges was that "the patient, suffering from severe rupture of the perinaeum and from offensive discharge and rigor on the fifth day, you did not explain that the case was one in which the attendance of a registered medical practitioner was required, nor did you hand to the husband or the nearest relative or friend present the form of sending for medical help." The patient was subsequently admitted to the Margaret Ward of the Women's Hospital, Birmingham, and evidence was put in from Nurse Lillian George that the perinaeum was ruptured to the anus, involving the sphincter, so that the patient had only partial control.

Edith May Dalchow (26091) applied for the restoration of her name to the Roll. It was removed on December, 13th, 1910, she then being charged with the theft of her husband's boots and undergoing a term of imprisonment. She was reported now to be sober, trustworthy, and of good moral character. This view was supported by the Medical Officer of Health, and she was re-instated.

GLASGOW MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

The Ladies Committee of the Glasgow Maternity and Women's Hospital in expressing their sincere thanks to all those who have sent gifts of old linen in the past year plead for further supplies. The House Superintendent, Mr. William Hill, writing to the press, says that such gifts are of great service in the work of the hospital. Donors are asked to send their contributions to the matron of the Hospital, in Rottenrow.

BIRTH.

She who gives birth in woe
Forgets her pain at morn,
Joyful to know
A man is born.

And all her senses sing
That from her blood and bone
New life should spring,
New, yet her own.

The poet, whose soul's unrest
Kills all his spirit's ease,
But yet is blest
With sweet increase,

Lifts up his voice, elate,
And carols blithe and free;
For to create
Is ecstasy.

Pain has but little worth
For those who travail long
To bring to birth
A son, a song.

—By Arthur Grimble.

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