

she understood that when the Local Supervising Authority suspended a midwife the circumstances must be communicated to the Central Midwives Board. She enquired whether a notice of her suspension at Colwyn Bay had been received. She was a new comer to the locality and was getting on well until suspended for a fortnight. As a result she lost her work.

It was resolved that the County Medical Officer of Health be reminded that no case of suspension which is not imposed by the proper authority, reported to the Board and recorded in its register, can be upheld by the Board and that the Board hopes that Rule F. will be remembered in dealing with such cases.

It was further agreed that the Board's decision be communicated to the midwife as well as to the Local Supervising Authority.

#### REMOVAL FROM ROLL.

Applications for removal of names from the Roll from seventeen midwives were considered, and the Secretary was directed to remove the names from the Roll of Midwives.

#### REPORT.

The Board approved the draft Report on the work of the year ended March 31st, 1913, and directed that a copy be forwarded to the Privy Council.

#### APPLICATIONS.

The following application for recognition as a teacher was granted:—Dr. Joseph Cook, D.P.H. Also that of Dr. Charles Stein *pro hac vice*. The applications of the following midwives for approval to sign forms 3 and 4, were granted:—Emma Burrows (No. 21358), Lilian Edith Neve (No. 25935), Ruth Poulton (No. 1902.)

#### REGULATION OF LYING-IN HOMES.

The London County Council, at its meeting on February 17th, decided that legislation be promoted in the session of Parliament of 1914 for the licensing of lying-in homes, and the registration of nursing homes and massage and manicure establishments. Those concerned should obtain copies of these Bills.

#### MIDWIFERY NURSES FOR INSURANCE PATIENTS.

At the recent annual meeting of the Walsall Victoria Nursing Institution, held at the Council House, Alderman W. J. Pearman-Smith presiding, it was decided to engage two maternity nurses, as a commencement of a scheme, who would attend midwifery cases in the patients' homes for payment, the usual fee, under the National Health Insurance Act, varying from ros. 6d. to 15s. per case. The nurses would reside in a separate establishment, but would be under the Lady Superintendent's supervision.

Mr. J. A. Leckie (hon. secretary) said the number of trained maternity nurses available for the

working classes was appallingly few, and there was no doubt this was in some measure responsible for the terrible death-rate among infants in Walsall.

#### THE NEW ZEALAND MIDWIVES ACT.

The Inspector-General of Hospitals, New Zealand, in his official report to the Hon. the Minister of Public Health, Hospitals, and Charitable Aid, in pursuance of Section 76 of Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act, 1909, states that "the number of midwives added to the register during the year was 91, all of these having been trained. Of these 61 were trained in the State maternity and other recognised training schools in New Zealand, and 30 were admitted on certificates obtained in other parts of the Empire.

"The remarks of the Assistant Inspector point out the very much higher standard of training in the Dominion than at Home.

"Trained midwives are going out as district nurses and subsidised nurses under the Hospital Boards to the backblocks and establishing private maternity hospitals in country towns.

"The number of untrained midwives registered when the Act was first passed was 682, and during the first year only 52 trained women were registered. On March 31st, 1913, the trained midwives total 504. This shows a very satisfactory increase in our properly qualified midwives."

Miss H. Maclean, Assistant Inspector, reports:

"The training of the midwifery nurses has in all the centres been very satisfactory, the examiners frequently expressing surprise that in the one year of training for women who have not undergone previous training as nurses they can learn so much. The Medical Officers and Matrons must be applauded for their conscientious work in teaching so thoroughly. It is worthy of note that two pupils of the St Helens Hospital, Wellington, obtained full marks in both sections of the late examination.

"The number of lectures laid down by the Midwives Act is very much exceeded, although not carried out strictly as laid down—*i.e.*, fortnightly—throughout the year, as it is found best to have the whole course delivered after the full term of pupils has assembled and settled to work.

"The number of midwives registered from overseas is thirty. The standard of training for most of these is far below that of those trained in the Dominion.

"It is time that a midwife trained at Home should produce proof that she has at least gone through a recognised institution before being registered in the colonies, which have established a course of training on so much higher standards.

"The number of trained midwives now on the register is rapidly overtaking the number of untrained women registered on their practical experience when the Act was passed. There are now 546 trained midwives, 685 untrained, the number of the former being constantly added to and the latter diminishing."

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