

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

THE WORK OF THE BOARD.

The Report of the Work of the Central Midwives Board for the year ending March 31st, 1913, is now published, and may be obtained from Wyman & Sons, Ltd., 29, Bream's Buildings, Fetter Lane, E.C., and is of interest to all midwives.

MIDWIVES ROLL.

On the above date the number of names on the Midwives Roll amounted to 35,563, an increase for the year of 1938. The total number of trained midwives was 24,543, of whom 14,931 had passed the Board's examination, and 9,612 had been admitted to the Roll in virtue of prior certification under Section 2 of the Midwives Act. The untrained midwives were 11,020. The percentages of trained and untrained were respectively 69 and 31. It will thus be seen that the effect of the Act is to steadily eliminate the untrained women, who, when it was first passed were much in excess. The report, however, draws attention to the fact that a large proportion of the trained women do not practise as midwives, and if the practising midwives only were considered the untrained women would still be found in a majority.

EXAMINATIONS.

2,701 candidates entered for the examinations, and of these 2,254 passed, 99.4, or 41.8 per cent. of the successful candidates declared their intention of practising as midwives, and of these 482 intended to practise in rural districts. These figures show a decrease from the previous year when the number of women intending to practise as midwives was 1,119 out of 2,290 successful candidates.

INSTITUTIONS, TEACHERS AND MIDWIVES.

There were 143 institutions at which midwives may be trained under the rules of the Board, 111 qualified medical practitioners unattached to any institutions, recognised by the Board as teachers of midwifery, and 116 midwives approved for the purpose of supervising the practical work of pupils.

We think this grouping is unfortunate, as the 116 midwives are teachers of practical midwifery and should rank as such.

TRAINING IN INSTITUTIONS.

The Report states that "for some time it has been apparent to the Board that the great majority of the candidates who come up for examination from some of the best known training institutions do not seek the Board's certificate as a qualification for practising as midwives but for collateral purposes. A maternity nurse now finds the possession of the C.M.B. certificate a valuable

asset in the practice of her calling, and it has become an essential qualification in many cases for the post of Matron at a hospital or infirmary under the Local Government Board or an appointment under the War Office [presumably in the Military Families Hospitals—ED.]. It is also desired by women wishing to practise as midwives in India, in the Dominions and the Colonies and even in foreign countries. These facts result in a steady increase in the proportion of successful candidates who do not mean to practise midwifery in England or Wales, and consequently in a steady diminution in the proportion of successful candidates who do mean to practise midwifery in England or Wales."

A table showing for 1912 the percentage of successful candidates, apart from those in Poor Law Institutions, who announced their intention of practising as midwives published as an appendix, contains some striking figures, amongst them the following:—

LONDON.

Institutions.	Total successful candidates.	Total number intending to practice.
General Lying-in Hospital	.. 153	.. 71
City of London Lying-in Hospital	.. 60	.. 10
Queen Charlotte's Hospital	.. 147	.. 18
British Lying-in Hospital	.. 18	.. 1

ENGLAND, EXCEPT LONDON.

Liverpool Maternity Hospital	.. 59	.. 9
Jessop Hospital for women	.. 16	.. 2
Brighton and Hove Hospital for Women	.. 45	.. 5

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh Royal Maternity Hospital	.. 23	.. 1
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IRELAND.

Dublin, Rotunda Hospital	.. 33	.. 9
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DEATHS.

The number of deaths of midwives reported to the Board during the year was 165, but as the deaths of non-practising midwives are seldom reported to the Local Supervising Authority, and in some districts the Authority itself fails to take adequate means to ensure the notification of practising midwives, it is estimated that this is considerably below the due total.

APPORTIONMENT.

The apportionment to be collected from the counties and county boroughs of England and Wales, in respect of the deficiency in the Board's revenue for 1912 amounted to £2,682 16s. 11d., as against £2,275 9s. 11d. for the previous year. The Board has now no invested funds; and its revenue is entirely derived from examination fees, the sale of publications, and the contributions of the Local Supervising Authorities.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)