

THE MORAL INFLUENCE OF THE MIDWIFE.

The first paper presented was one by Mrs. Barker, Chief Secretary, Women's Work, Salvation Army, who said that amongst the weak and lonely none were to be so pitied as betrayed and deserted women, especially the young unmarried women. The work among them was a difficult one of the highest moral and spiritual order, and needed devoted and skilled workers, therefore it was essential that the workers should have the strength of principle.

A moral lapse could only be rectified by moral influence; shutting women up in institutions, and giving them employment there, and obliging them to attend religious services whether they were inclined to do so or not was insufficient.

It was not denied that some of the girls went the wrong way willingly, but for the most part they fell through tenderness of affection, and their willing subjection to the strong power of a man's will. The workers needed to use judgment, and while they should have large hearts—full of Divine sympathy—they must avoid sentimentality. We must have high ideals, doing our work with a noble purpose, striving ever to repair the broken dignities of woman.

INSPECTION FROM THE MIDWIFE'S POINT OF VIEW.

Miss Elsie Hall said that she had a tremendous belief in the great value of the existence of a well-educated, well-trained body of midwives, and also in the importance and value of the work of their inspectors. She therefore desired to call attention to a flaw in the administration of the Midwives Act, which weakened the position of this important body of professional workers. This was that if midwives were not assured supervision by qualified inspectors, that inspection would decidedly tend to lower the status of midwives—not to raise it, as was intended. Thus the very object of their existence would be defeated—which was to insure to the mother and baby the best care which midwives were capable of giving, and in all possible ways to further the work of the midwife. At present there was no stipulated qualification required of an Inspector of Midwives. It ought to be impossible for midwives to be subjected to inspection by those who had no knowledge, let alone expert knowledge, of their work. Yet such was the case.

At the conclusion of the meeting, after some discussion, the following resolution was carried *nem con.*

RESOLUTION.

"That this meeting is of opinion that whereas, no midwife is allowed to practise without certain qualifications laid down by the C.M.B., there is no stipulation, other than the word "proper," as to the qualifications necessary for inspectors of midwives; and it would earnestly suggest that, at the next revision of the Rules, the C.M.B. should institute some definite qualifications which would guarantee the efficiency of an inspector, or her substitute, to fulfil her duties."

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.**PENAL CASES.**

A special meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Wednesday, April 29th, at 2 p.m. Sir Francis Champneys presided. The object of the meeting was the hearing of the charges alleged against ten midwives, and the results were as follows:—

Struck off the Roll and Certificate cancelled.—Hannah Campbell (No. 22213, Coombe Hospital certificate), Harriet Cracknell (No. 11203), Harriet Patrick (No. 3544), Jane Slim (No. 1681), Harriet Sutton (No. 3292), Mary Ann Taylor (No. 1758), Louisa Thomas (No. 12846).

Report asked for from the Local Supervising Authority in three and six months' time.—Elizabeth Burch (No. 10560, L.O.S. certificate), Edith Emily Augusta Johnson (No. 2645, St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester),

One case was adjourned.

THE MONTHLY MEETING.

A meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, April 30th. Sir Francis Champneys was re-elected Chairman; Dr. West was appointed on to the Finance Committee, and Mr. Golding Bird and Dr. Briggs were added to the Penal Cases Committee.

The resignation by Sir George Fordham of his seat on the Board was received with regret, and on the nomination of the County Councils' Association, Dr. L. N. West, J.P., was appointed his successor.

A letter was received from the Clerk of the Council as to the attitude of the Magistrates of the Ross Petty Sessional Division in dealing with a case where an uncertified woman was prosecuted by the Local Supervising Authority for an infringement of Section 1 (2) of the Midwives Act, 1902. It was agreed that the Privy Council be thanked for their letter.

A letter was received from the Local Government Board with reference to the Chairman's letter of February 20th, criticising the provisions of the Ophthalmia Neonatorum Order, 1914.

A letter was read from the Medical Officer of Health of Manchester on the same subject. It was agreed (a) That the Local Government Board be thanked for their letter; (b) That the Medical Officer of Health of Manchester be thanked for a copy of his Circular on Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

A letter was received from the London County Council asking whether the Board is prepared to issue instructions with regard to the most effective germicide to be used by midwives for the treatment of the eyes of infants during the first few days after birth. It was agreed to reply that the principle of the Board has been to refrain from ordering any special drug in such cases as are there-in referred to, inasmuch as opinions differ, and it would in their view be unwise to frame a Rule ordering the use of any particular germicide,

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