

inasmuch as the breach of such a Rule could not rationally be punished if the delinquent were able to quote recognised authority for the use of the particular germicide—other than that authorised by the Board—used by her.

A letter was received from the Honorary Secretary of the Southampton Midwives' Association asking whether Credé's method may be used by a midwife as a preventative in cases of ophthalmia neonatorum. It was decided to reply (a) That the Board has purposely refrained from issuing orders on points of treatment on which recognised authorities differ; (b) That the Board has never ordered the use of Credé's method as a prophylactic.

A letter was received from the Infantile Health Central Committee forwarding a copy of a resolution passed at a meeting held on April 28th, suggesting that the Board should include the subject of the Hygiene of Infant Clothing among those upon which candidates for the Central Midwives Board's Certificate are liable to be examined.

It was agreed that the Infantile Health Central Committee be informed that candidates for the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board are already liable to be examined on the subject specified. (Rules C. 4. (n)).

Applications.—It was agreed that Arthur James McNair, M.B., be appointed an Additional Examiner for the London Centre.

The applications of the authorities of St. Thomas's Hospital, London, and Lady Curzon and Bowring Civil Hospital, Bangalore, for their recognition as training schools were granted.

Miss Elsie A. Bennians, Leeds, was approved for signing forms III and IV.

The Chairman moved (a) That it is desirable that the Lectures in London and the London District required by Rule C. 1. (3) should be given in convenient centres and by experienced Lecturers. (b) That notice be accordingly given to the Lecturers in London and the London District not attached to Institutions that the recognition of Lecturers in London and the District is under consideration and that it may not be renewed on its expiry on March 31st, 1915.

THE RURAL MIDWIVES' ASSOCIATION.

The Marchioness of Tullibardine presided at the Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Rural Midwives Association, held on Tuesday at 3, Grosvenor Place, S.W., by permission of Lady Hambleden. Lady Tullibardine graphically described the needs of the Highlands and Islands in Scotland, particularly the Outer Hebrides.

The adoption of the Report was moved by Mrs. Charles Hobhouse, and seconded by Mr. Francis E. Fremantle, F.R.C.S., County Medical Officer of Health for Hertfordshire. He referred to the announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to the provision of nurses for the insured sick, and pointed out that if voluntary associations accepted State grants they must also be prepared to accept the con-

ditions imposed: First, the money must be devoted to the purpose for which it was granted; they could not take State aid and nurse private cases; and they would have to submit to inspection from the local authority. He warned his audience that the time would come when nurses would refuse to do the housework in the cottages, and said that there was ample occupation for any village nurse in the future, within a radius of four miles, without doing any charring. He was afraid the Association must forego its original idea of the friendly old Gamp living in the patient's house. If the voluntary associations refused to meet the State, then the State would be bound to come into the villages, and the associations would be confronted with its competition backed by the bottomless purse of the general exchequer.

There was a big future before nursing. It was much more than mere domestic service. Before long it would be a profession of the highest standing, with a position only second, if second, to that of doctors and the clergy, which would attract university women and girls of high school education to its ranks.

ASSOCIATION OF INSPECTORS OF MIDWIVES.

Under the chairmanship of the President, Dr. Macrory, the annual meeting of the Association of Inspectors of Midwives was held during Conference Week. Miss Mackenzie, Inspector for Bucks, introduced a discussion on the right of action of a local M.O.H. or his sanitary inspector when a case of puerperal fever arises in the practice of a midwife in his district. The subject arose out of a case in Miss Mackenzie's experience, in which a midwife had been suspended from work by the sanitary inspector, who disinfected her bag and apparatus—the duty ordinarily of the inspector of midwives. Other inspectors spoke of similar experiences, which were strongly resented, and it was resolved to communicate with the Association of Sanitary Inspectors on the subject. Subsequently Miss Harrison (Hull) read a paper on the suspension of midwives, urging the need of some arrangement for compensation in any future amendment of the Midwives Act.

The Local Government Board's recent Ophthalmia Neonatorum Order was discussed and Miss Jowett (Bradford) gave a description of the methods adopted in that town in cases of ophthalmia. As soon as a case is notified in the practice of a midwife she is at once taken off the case, both mother and child, who are then offered admission to a special hospital for the treatment of this disease, and in some instances the parents may be forced to send the child, though the authorities strongly deprecate taking an infant from its mother and thus necessitating artificial feeding. It appeared from the discussion that followed that nowhere else was a midwife taken off such a case entirely, and Miss Harrison, of Hull, expressed the strong opinion that it was both unnecessary and unfair.

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