

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

A meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, May 21st.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters were received from the Clerk of the Council transmitting a copy of the Report of the National Association for the Prevention of Infantile Mortality, and for the Welfare of Infancy as to the training of midwives, and a letter drafted in reply by the chairman adopted.

It was agreed to reply to the Executive Subcommittee of the Nursing and Midwifery Conference, who had forwarded a resolution as to the qualifications of Inspectors of Midwives, "That the Executive be informed that Inspectors of Midwives are not subject to the jurisdiction of the Board."

In reference to a suggestion from the London County Council that a space in which to record pulse and temperature should be provided in the Midwives' Register of Cases, it was agreed to reply that the best way of recording them is in a separate book properly devised.

A letter was considered from the National Association of Midwives (Manchester) forwarding a copy of a resolution passed unanimously at a meeting held on April 27th, urging that every facility should be given for the full and complete training of midwives so as to enable them to deal with every emergency arising in childbirth. It was agreed to inform the Association that the Board does not approve the suggestion.

APPLICATIONS.

For Voluntary Resignation.—The applications of six midwives for removal from the Roll were granted.

For Appointment as Additional Examiner.—Mr. Gordon Ley, F.R.C.S., was appointed additional examiner for the London Centre.

For Recognition as Teacher.—It was decided to recognise Dr. George Poole David Hawker as a teacher.

For Approval to sign Forms III and IV.—The application of Dr. Stanley Worthington was granted *pro hac vice*. Also the applications of the following midwives: Clare Sybil Peek (No. 35457) and Bertha Lucie Taylor (No. 26949), also Mary Ellen Stott (No. 34006) *pro hac vice*.

FINANCE.

The Chairman reported that the Board had paid off the loan from the Bank. Also that the County Councils, which furnished the funds, were responding with increasing alacrity every year.

PENAL BOARDS.

Tuesday, June 9th, at 2 p.m., and Wednesday, June 10th, at 10.30 a.m., were fixed for the next penal boards. The midwives to be cited appear to be mostly septuagenarians and octogenarians.

THE EAST END MOTHERS' HOME.

The Annual Meeting of the East End Mothers' Home, 396, Commercial Road, E., was held by permission of the Hon. Francis W. S. McLaren, M.P., and Mrs. McLaren, on Wednesday, May 20th, at 8, Little College Street, S.W. Mrs. McLaren presided, and a resolution was moved by Mrs. Scharlieb, M.D., seconded by Mr. William Goschen, and carried, affirming "That the East End Mothers' Lying-In Home is engaged in excellent work and deserves wider financial support."

Mrs. Scharlieb referred to the splendid way in which the Matron and Nursing Staff were doing their duty, and so holding the flag of England high.

Much had been done by the State, the Maternity Benefit was admirable, and the country was waking up. State aid was a great thing, but it was the intensely human touch which made the East End Mothers' Home so delightful. The professional work was well done, and the temperature charts almost always approximated to the normal. Not all could be doctors or nurses—probably very few were fit to be nurses, but all could strengthen the hands of the Chairman, Matron, and Nursing Staff.

Mr. William Goschen said that when the danger of childbirth came near a man's own home, he thanked his God then for the skill of doctors and nurses. In the East End the poor turned to the East End Mothers' Home, as well as to the London Hospital, with which he was connected for skilled help. He spoke of the courage of the maternity nurses who went about their work in streets down which the police feared to go alone.

A nurse had told him that on one occasion the only available receptacle for washing a baby was an empty sardine tin. On another occasion a doctor whose assistance had been summoned received a severe blow from a besom. On enquiring why, he received the reply, "I thought you was me sister's 'usband."

The Home needed money to meet the demands of science. Every one was feeling the pressure of taxation, but those taxes paid to the tax collector were man's taxes, the taxes claimed that day were God's, and when the accounts were made up they would be found entered in the book in letters of shining gold.

Dr. Owen Lankester, Chairman of the Home, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. McLaren, which was seconded by Dr. Stabb, and heartily carried. He also announced a welcome bequest of £500 under the will of the late Sir William Dunn. He spoke warmly of the work of the matron, and of the impotence of the work of training pupils, whose fees were the backbone of the Home. As much as £1,000 per annum had been received from this source.

After the meeting, before tea was served, some of the babies came in for a great deal of homage.

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