

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

PENAL CASES.

At a meeting of the Central Midwives' Board on June 9th, charges against eleven midwives were investigated, with the following results.

Struck off the Roll and Certificate Cancelled.—Mary Ann Gallagher (No. 12579), Sarah Ann Holder (No. 2703), Caroline Malpass (No. 3541), Sarah Matthews (No. 5703), Elizabeth Monk (No. 16723), Mary Ann Powling (No. 4168), and Edna Walton (No. 2196).

Censured.—Jane Linsell (No. 13140).

Report asked for in Three and Six Months.—Hester Kate Elizabeth Lcnnen (No. 4211), and Sarah Ann Mitchell (No. 355).

To Report in Three Months.—Ann Elizabeth Walton (No. 14639).

Cases Adjourned for Judgment on Report of Local Supervising Authority.—Mary Ann Baxm (No. 5457), and Mary Plant (No. 15). The final reports being satisfactory, no action was taken with regard to these two midwives.

The charge against Sarah Matthews, who was struck off the roll, was that she knowingly permitted premises in her house to be used for the purposes of habitual prostitution. Her defence was that the offences were committed after she had herself gone to bed and without her knowledge.

The Inspector of Midwives for Stoke-on-Trent (Dr. Harper), had four midwives from her division before the Board, three of whom were removed from the roll.

In the case of Elizabeth Monk one charge was that "the child, suffering from discharge from the eyes on Friday, February 20th, and following days, you did not explain that the case was one in which the attendance of a registered medical practitioner was required, nor did you hand to the husband or the nearest relative or friend present the form of sending for medical help, properly filled up and signed by you, in order that this might be immediately forwarded to the medical practitioner, as required by Rule E 20 (5)."

Against Caroline Malpass it was proved that "the patient suffering from [rigor with raised temperature and other symptoms of serious illness on Friday, March 27th, you did not explain that the case was one in which the attendance of a registered medical practitioner was required."

With regard to fixing the date of delivery, Sister Olive, of York Road Lying-in Hospital, recently quoted a celebrated French midwife, who allowed a week on either side of the calculated date, and said somewhere within that fortnight.

With regard to breech cases, it had been stated that the mortality in midwives' cases was twenty-five per cent. She could hardly think that possible. At York Road, it was the practice for the pupil midwives to deliver. Out of fifty-three normal breech cases the mortality had been only one.

THE MIDWIVES' (SCOTLAND) BILL.

The Midwives (Scotland) Bill, which has passed the House of Lords, has some chance of becoming law in the present session, as the Prime Minister has stated that the Government is favourably disposed, and will consider whether facilities can be granted for its progress in the House of Commons.

The Presidential Address of Sir Donald MacAlister to the General Medical Council contained the following reference to the Bill, and to midwifery in Scotland.

"The Midwives Act of 1902, under which certain duties are laid upon this Council, does not apply to Scotland. A Bill to secure the better training of Midwives in Scotland, and to regulate their practice, has on the initiative of Lord Balfour of Burleigh passed the House of Lords, and now awaits consideration in the other House. Having in mind certain improvements on the English Act that have from time to time been desired by this Council, I ventured on your behalf to suggest to Lord Balfour at an early stage that these might advantageously be introduced into the Scottish Bill, and I believe that nearly all of them have now been incorporated. The Lord President has sent us a copy of the Bill as thus adjusted, with a request for our observations. The Executive Committee will in due course be ready to propose a convenient method of dealing with the subject."

HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS BOARD.

"His Majesty has been pleased to appoint Dr. McVail, Dr. Norman Walker, and myself, to be members of a Board for improving the medical and nursing services in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. The Board has only begun its work, but already it is impressed with the urgent importance of securing better training for midwives, and of legally regulating their practice, in the districts with which it is concerned."

HUMANISED MILK FOR INFANT FEEDING.

Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., Snow Hill Buildings, London, E.C., have published a folding leaflet giving details as to the correct preparation of milk for infants from birth up to the age of nine months. The addition of "Kepler" Malt Extract to the cow's milk, diluted and treated in accordance with the directions given, favours the formation in the stomach of a light, flaky curd, capable of easy digestion. The leaflet is a marvel of information in a small compass, and the revolving direction disc attached is most convenient for regulating the milk diet from week to week.

A wedding has been arranged between Sir George Fordham, of Odsey, until recently the representative of the Association of County Councils on the Central Midwives Board, and Mrs. Ethel M. E. Weigall, widow of Commander Stewart Weigall, R.N.

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