

## THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

### PENAL CASES.

At a special meeting of the Central Midwives Board on June 10th, held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, charges alleged against sixteen certified midwives were heard with the following results.

*Struck off the Roll and Certificate Cancelled.*—Mary Ashmore (No. 10222), Rachel Calloway (No. 1974), Elizabeth Jemima Cecilia Chivers (No. 11908), Ann Cox (No. 18590), Jane Coxhead (No. 4351), Ellen Hunter (No. 10771), Eliza Latham (No. 13301), Mary Mitchell (No. 21142), Anne Roden (No. 7931), Emma Smith (No. 21201), Margaret White (No. 5474), Mary Wroe (No. 9470).  
*Cautioned.*—Ellen Sisson (No. 13201).

Two cases were adjourned, and in a third no action was taken.

In the case of Margaret White, who appeared before the Board, the following charges amongst others, were preferred. That being in attendance as a midwife at the confinement of Mrs. Webb, of 4, George Street, Streethouse, on Thursday, April 23rd, 1914, you, well knowing that the child was stillborn, falsely informed the father of the child and made false statements to other persons that the child had been born alive and had lived for a stated space of time. That you describe and notify as stillborn children who have in fact been born alive.

The midwife owned that if a child lived only a few minutes she certified it as stillborn. If a child was registered alive the parents could obtain money from their club. As a reason, though not an excuse for the midwife's action, it may be stated that she is seventy-three years of age, and that twenty years ago the term stillbirth was much more loosely used than at present, and pupil midwives were even sometimes taught that if a newly born infant drew a few breaths this did not prove that it was born alive, as it probably was the result of reflex action, in which case it might legitimately be certified as stillborn.

Midwives trained in these days should know better, and on their part there can be no reason for false certification of still births.

### EXAMINATION PAPER.

The following are the questions set at the examination of the Central Midwives Board, held in London and the provinces on June 15th:—

1. What is the position of the Uterus at the twenty-fourth week of pregnancy?

What are its relations to surrounding structures, and what would an examination of the Uterus reveal?

2. You are asked to attend a woman in her first confinement. What investigations will you make, and what advice will you give?

3. A woman's last period ended on November 7th. How would you calculate the expected date of the confinement, and how would you know when labour had begun?

4. What are the signs of obstructed labour, and

to what may this condition lead? What is your duty in such cases?

5. What are the chief causes of sore buttocks? How may this condition be prevented, and how would you treat it when it occurs?

6. What is Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and what causes it? What directions does the Central Midwives Board give to prevent this disease?

## THE WORK IN THE PUBLIC DAY NURSERY.

The issue of the first handbook of "Work in the Public Day Nursery" at the annual meeting of the National Society of Day Nurseries on June 11th, is an indication of the hold which this new form of institution is gaining upon the country, and gives cause for reflection.

When does education begin?

Ought we to neglect the first years of life, when statistics show the battle for life is fiercest and mortality highest?

Home, where the home is a good one, is undoubtedly the best place for the child—but what can lay a worse foundation to child character than a bad home, or still more, no home at all—the children of mothers who have to go out to work being often locked up alone, or left in the streets during the absence of the mothers.

Unless well-equipped nurseries are provided, others kept by unqualified persons will spring and are springing into existence in the absence of official registration and inspection which the National Society of Day Nurseries' Society is pressing the Government to provide.

The handbook shows in the first place that rightly viewed the Day Nursery is a club, at which the mothers pay approximately the cost of the food of the children—that is, 4d. a day; the community subscribing building, equipment and trained nurses—which cost another 8d.; the medical attendance being generally given *gratis*.

Sixty-five of these Day Nurseries are now affiliated to the Society, and spend approximately £16,843 on 321,660 children's attendances—which works out to one shilling per child a day, of which, as stated above, the mother pays one-third.

The handbook gives complete instructions as to how to conduct and start a Nursery—gleaned from the experience of these 65 Nurseries—with rules showing how to guard against infection, &c.; besides milk charts and diet sheets, and instructions to ensure the proper feeding and treatment of children.

The training of young women probationers as nurses—an occupation daily gaining favour—is another feature of the Society's work; and in connection with this the Society maintains a Registry Office, with Secretary and Inspector, at 4, Sydney Terrace, Fulham Road.

All further information can be obtained there, as well as copies of the handbook—which contains complete information as to how to become affiliated to the Society, for those who desire it—and it is hoped that as many as possible will co-operate.

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