

MONTHLY MEETING.

The monthly meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at Caxton House, S.W., on Thursday, July 23rd, Sir Francis Champneys presiding:—

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was received from the Clerk of the Council transmitting a copy of the Programme of the Third International Congress of Midwives to be held at Vienna from the 22nd to 26th September next.

A letter was read from the Committee of a provincial District Nursing Association with regard to the falsified birth certificate tendered by the Superintendent of the Association on behalf of one of her pupils with the object of obtaining admission to the Examination of June 15th.

Letters were also read from the Superintendent of the Association and from the pupil.

The Board decided that inasmuch as several of those responsible for the training of pupil midwives do not seem to have paid attention to the warning circular issued by the Board on June 27th, 1914, the Board gives notice that no candidate whose certificate appears to have been tampered with will be allowed to enter for the Examination for which it has been tendered, but that such action is not to prevent the Board from taking any further steps which it thinks desirable in the case of any certificate which appears to have been altered fraudulently.

Further, that the Board advises those responsible for the training, both in their own interests and in those of their pupils, to obtain their birth certificates at the beginning of their training, and to see that they have not been tampered with.

It was agreed that this decision should be sent to all trainers, and that the Schedule should be altered so as to include the certificate of birth.

The Secretary reported that the Matron of a recognised Training School had, with the Examination Schedule of one of her pupils, tendered a certificate of birth that had been tampered with.

The Board resolved (a) that the candidate be not admitted to the Examination until a satisfactory explanation of the alteration of the birth certificate be furnished to the Board; (b) that the attention of the Matron be called to this matter in which she has failed in her responsibility, and that she be warned that serious notice will be taken of any failure in her duties to the Board in future.

Correspondence with the Examiners of the Bristol Examination Centre asking the Board to hold Examinations in Bristol every two months instead of every four months, as at present, was considered, and it was agreed to grant the application.

A letter was read from a certified midwife complaining of the conditions of midwifery practice in Bangor, and the absence of inspection by the Local Supervising Authority.

It was decided to reply that the midwife be informed that the Board regrets the difficulties

incidental to the practice of midwifery in Bangor, but has no jurisdiction over the County Councils, which appoint inspectors, but they are referring the matter to the County Councils Association.

A letter was received from Miss Gertrude Jeanie Challis, No. 23991, asking the Board to approve her temporarily, pending the appointment of a successor, for the purpose of undertaking the practical training of midwives for the Lincoln Nursing Society owing to the midwife lately in charge having resigned her post unexpectedly. The application was granted.

A letter was received from the Registrar of the General Medical Council with regard to the action taken in respect of the registered medical practitioner who had, on behalf of a candidate entering for the Examination, certified to his personal knowledge the correctness of certain details which had previously been falsified by the candidate herself.

The Board resolved that the Registrar of the General Medical Council be thanked, and be informed that in the opinion of the Board no further action be taken.

A letter was received from Mrs. Heywood Johnstone asking the Board to approve Miss Henrietta Maud Harvey, No. 35704, to supervise the practical training of pupils at the Heywood Johnstone Memorial Home owing to the sudden illness of the Matron. This was granted.

APPLICATIONS.

From Certified Midwives.—Applications from seven certified midwives for the removal of their names from the Roll on the ground of inability to continue practice, old age, and ill-health were granted.

From a Registered Medical Practitioner.—The application of Mr. Henry Edward Gough, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., for approval under Rule C. 1 (2) was granted.

From Certified Midwives.—The applications of the following certified midwives for approval under the same Rule were granted: Midwives Julia Guthrie, Harriet Johnson, Maria Blow, and of Midwife Emily Button *pro hac vice*.

The report of the Finance Committee having been adopted, the Secretary presented the report of the recent examination. It is noteworthy that Queen Charlotte's Hospital, which sent up 20 candidates, 25 per cent. more than any other London hospital, had no failure, the next, with 15 candidates, passing 13. The uniformly excellent results attained by Queen Charlotte's of late years, appear to afford an excellent object lesson to other hospitals of the value of a preliminary training school.

OTHER BUSINESS.

The Chairman then said that the question of temporary assistance for the Secretary must be considered, and Mr. Hubert Sutton, barrister-at-law, was appointed, subject to the approval of the Privy Council, the appointment to be terminable at the pleasure of the Board.

The next Special Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 22nd, at 2 p.m.

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