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THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

The first meeting of the Central Midwives Board since the autumn recess was held at the offices, Caxton House, S.W., on Thursday, October 8th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

On the report of the Standing Committee a letter was received from the Clerk of the Council transmitting, for the information of the Board, a translation of Regulations respecting the practice of midwifery in Korea, received from H.M. Ambassador at Tokio, and it was agreed that the Lord President be thanked for his communication.

A letter was received from Miss Llewellyn Davies, General Secretary of the Woman's Co-operative Guild, asking the Board to appoint a representative to join a Deputation to the President of the Local Government Board, in his capacity as such, and as Chairman of the Government Committee for the Relief of Distress, to consider the care of Maternity in time of War.

It was decided to decline the invitation, while sympathizing with any scheme of that nature.

Letters from the Assistant Registrar General for Ireland, with reference to the birth certificate of a candidate for the August Examination, which was found to have been tampered with, from the candidate concerned, and from a second candidate whose certificate had similarly been tampered with were dealt with.

A letter was received from the Secretary of the County Councils' Association, transmitting a copy of a resolution passed by its Executive Council, "That in the opinion of the Council it is desirable that all lying-in homes and institutions, and all houses where women are habitually taken in for their confinement for pay should be registered, and should be subject to inspection by the Local Supervising Authority, under the Midwives Act." It was agreed to acknowledge the communication with thanks.

Letters from four more candidates whose birth certificates were found to have been tampered with were considered. In three cases it was decided not to admit the candidates to the examination; and, in the fourth to put the candidate back till April, 1915.

APPLICATIONS.

For Removal from the Roll.—The applications of nine midwives for removal from the Roll were granted.

For Recognition as Teacher.—The applications of the following medical practitioners were granted: Dr. Ernest Cutcliffe Hadley, F.R.C.S.; Dr. James Owen David Wade, F.R.C.S.; Dr. Herbert Clifton Attwood (*pro tem*); Dr. Charles W. Howe, D.P.H. (*pro hac vice*).

For Approval to Undertake the Practical Training of Pupils.—The applications of the following midwives were granted: Midwives May Bragg, Jemina Dawkins, Florence Rodmell, Maude Whittier.

FINANCE.

In connection with the report of the Finance Committee, the Chairman stated that the work of the Penal Board was much more costly, owing to the large increase in the number of penal cases.

PENAL BOARD.

The next meeting of the Board for the consideration of Penal cases will be held on Thursday, November 12th, at 11.30 a.m.

MIDWIFERY FEES TO INSURED PERSONS.

At the annual meeting of the subscribers to the Burgess Hill District Nursing and Midwifery Association last week, at which the Rev. Dr. Bonavia-Hunt presided, the Committee reported that the opinion of subscribers was sought in the matter of midwifery fees which had been raised to persons entitled to maternity benefit under the Insurance Acts, as it was found that there was some difference of opinion on the subject. The result was the majority were found to be in favour of making no distinction between patients on the score of insurance, and the original scale of fees was accordingly reverted to.

TAKE CARE OF THE MOTHERS AND BABIES.

One of the ways in which women can help their country at this time was indicated by Miss Amy Hughes, General Superintendent Q.V.J.I., when speaking at the annual meeting of the Huddersfield Victoria Sick Poor Nursing Association. Urging the importance of devoting great attention to maternity work, she asked what would become of England unless the boy babies were looked after for the next generation, now that we were losing so many men? We agree with her that those nurses who remain at home, building up the courage of the people and keeping them strong and well, are doing a great work.

The Directors of the Institute for Maternity Nursing of the General Association, 23, Scotia Street, Glasgow, have resolved that the wives of all soldiers and sailors residing in the Cowcadden district shall be attended free of charge.

Thousands of poor homeless people fled to England from Antwerp, and when they arrived food in abundance was brought to the harbour by the women of Folkestone. Among the refugees were several women about to become mothers. Within twenty-four hours an empty house was turned into a home for them, and one baby has already been born. Poor mite, it is lucky in these terrible times to see the light in benevolent old England.

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