

The Midwife.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

A Special Meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the offices of the Board on Thursday, October 22nd, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

Cases adjourned for judgment on report of Local Supervising Authority.—The reports in four cases were read by the Secretary. In two no action was taken, as the reports were satisfactory. Mary Snape (No. 5251) and Harriet Hughes (No. 11409) were struck off. The latter, whose report was satisfactory in other respects, because she still could not take a pulse or temperature.

Interim Reports.—Interim reports were received in seven cases; in five no action was taken. Sarah Ann Mitchell (No. 355), who had had pemphigus in her practice and had not notified the Local Supervising Authority, and Mary Fitzpatrick (No. 1541) were struck off.

The charges alleged against eleven women were then considered, with the following results.

Struck off the Roll and Certificates Cancelled.—Amy Edmonds (No. 8827), Celia Frith (No. 10744), Mary Jane Phillips (No. 14901), Lucy Henrietta Stock (No. 34004 C.M.B. Examination), and Mary Warren (No. 19436).

Severely Censured.—Isabella Jackson (No. 7371), Maria Ann Lewis (No. 33084) C.M.B. Examination),

Cautioned.—Sarah Ann Allen (No. 8840), Janet Malcolm (No. 5461). In both cases a report was asked for from the Local Supervising Authorities in three and six months' time. In the two remaining cases one decision was "not proved," and in the other "no action" was taken.

In the case of one midwife cited, no professional incompetence was alleged, the charge being "that you are guilty of misconduct, inasmuch as for the last four months or more you have been, and still are, cohabiting with one ———, who is not your husband."

A letter was read in which the writer stated that the influence of the midwife was very bad. She was living with the man named, and there was another man in the house who she said was her brother. She had working parties, and young girls went to her house probably without their parents' knowledge of the woman's character.

We advise those who hold that the registration of midwives is desirable, because the personal character of the midwife is immaterial, while the registration of nurses is undesirable because in a nurse good character is essential, to observe that this is not the view taken by the Central Midwives Board, who have inflicted the extreme penalty of removal from the Roll solely on account of moral delinquency.

MATERNITY CARE IN WAR TIME.

The deputation arranged by the Women's Co-operative Guild, the Women's Labour League, and the Railway Women's Guild which recently waited on the President of the Local Government Board to ask for Government support of a national scheme for maternity care in time of war were assured by Mr. Samuel that the Government Committee took a very sympathetic view of the case which had been put forward.

THE LEICESTER MIDWIVES ASSOCIATION.

As we go to press the Leicester and Leicestershire Midwives Association, of which Miss E. Pell Smith is President, are holding a meeting in the G.F.S. Rooms, 5, St. Martin's East, Leicester, at which Dr. Montague Williams is presiding, and the speakers are Miss Rosalind Paget, Dr. Gertrude Austin, Dr. E. Lewis Lilley, and Dr. C. K. Millard. Tea will be served after the meeting.

INFANT MORTALITY IN TORONTO.

A correspondent of the *Lancet* gives an interesting account of the Division of Child Hygiene inaugurated by the Department of Health in Toronto with Dr. Alan Brown and Dr. George Campbell as directors. Toronto has 10,960 children under 1 year of age and 21,070 under 2 years of age. To care for these in time of sickness there are the Hospital for Sick Children, the Infants' Home and Infirmary for Destitute Children, St. Vincent's Home for Destitute Foundlings and Illegitimate Children, the Haven Prison Gate Mission, which last year cared for 61 infants, 58 being illegitimate, and the Sacred Heart Orphanage. There are 42 licensed baby homes and 12 maternity homes under the supervision of the Department of Health. Four of the public hospitals maintain maternity wards; 1,260 children were born there during the past official year. Four visiting nursing agencies do the bulk of the obstetrical work of the city; there are eight day nurseries or crèches, and these and other philanthropic organisations are co-ordinated to prevent overlapping. Within a few days of the reporting of a birth in the city one of the public health nurses—of whom there are 31—visits the home and investigates the surroundings of the child. If a doctor is in attendance nothing further is done; otherwise the mother is directed to bring her baby to a "well baby clinic," of which there are ten. The Toronto Ferry Co. supplies a floating sanatorium, and about 300 babies and mothers are taken out on each trip. There is also a wet nurse bureau in connection with the business of Child Hygiene, so that provision for the care of the city's children is very complete.

previous page

next page