

# The Midwife.

## THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

A Special Meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, S.W., on Tuesday, December 15th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding, to consider the charges alleged against thirteen certified midwives with the following results:—

*Struck off the Roll and certificate cancelled.*—Midwives Martha Corbin (No. 9017), Phoebe Dingley (No. 3084), Charlotte E. S. Hingston (No. 20989), Emma Latham (No. 16896), Rose Anne McGrael (No. 30993), Caroline Skinner (No. 645), Ellen Taylor (No. 17531), Caroline Maria Wills (No. 20899), Emma Young (No. 31110).

*Severely Censured* (report asked for in three and six months' time).—Midwife Ethel Mary Hanson (No. 34555, C.M.B. Examination).

*Cautioned.*—Midwives Annie Maywood (No. 4323), and Emily E. Thomas (No. 20296).

One case was postponed.

Several of the cases were defended, that of Miss Hanson lasting nearly three hours.

In the case of Mrs. Maywood, who was present and ably defended, who admitted the charge of not having advised that the attendance of a registered medical practitioner was required in the case of a child suffering from inflammation of and discharge from the eyes, the Board limited the sentence to a caution on account of the favourable report of the midwife given by Dr. Thresh, County Medical Officer of Health for Essex, who was present.

Mrs. Maywood, who is a bona fide midwife, said that her mother was a nurse, and she learnt her work by "going with her." Her husband was blind, and she was his main support. She took a patient's temperature if she did not seem so well, not otherwise. Babies often had a little cold in their eyes, and she bathed them with boracic. She did not think the case was serious till the eyes puffed up. If she had been trained she might have understood much better.

In cautioning the midwife the Chairman asked the press to emphasise the point that notification of ophthalmia neonatorum, sent to the Local Supervising Authority, did not supersede that of advising that medical help should be sent for required by the C.M.B. rules. Miss Paget commented on the fact that the woman notified the Sanitary Authority, and that it was four days before any notice was taken.

Final reports were received in the cases of three midwives, adjourned for judgment of the reports of their respective Local Supervising Authorities, and these being satisfactory, no further action was taken.

The application of Mary Ann Preece for the restoration of her name to the Roll, from which it was removed in November, 1913, was received. On the recommendation of the Penal Cases Committee it was decided not to grant it.

## THE INVALID BABIES' NURSERY, HUNSTANTON.

A home which seeks to help a class needing great care and attention, for whom little provision is made, is the Invalid Babies' Nursery at Hunstanton, Norfolk, under the care of Roman Catholic Sisters of the Dominican Order, with Sister Mary Magdalen as Sister Superior.

Examination of the various lists of charitable institutions will prove how very limited are those which receive young infants, apart from their mothers, and mothers of families cannot leave husbands and other children to attend exclusively to one, however urgent its needs may be. Yet midwives know well how many babies need medical attention and skilled nursing care within a few months of birth, and, considering the heavy mortality among children during their first year of life, it is apparent that institutions which will admit and care for invalid infants are meeting a real need.

The idea of the Invalid Babies' Home at Hunstanton is not to provide expensive buildings and appliances, but the aim of the Sisters is to do what a good, middle class mother in the country would be able to do as regards abundance of suitable food, fresh air, cleanliness, warmth, rest, &c., until the babies become thoroughly healthy. The parents, benefactors, or friends of the babies, who are received from six months to three years old, pay, when possible, a maintenance charge of 10s. weekly, but this does not cover expenses, and as a legacy of £500 and a further gift of £100 to one of the Sisters are now exhausted, they are dependent upon the help of those who realise the importance of caring for invalid children during the early years of life. They are also grateful for gifts of clothing, as the parents are not required to provide this.

Ninety children have been cared for during the past five years for periods varying from one month to four years. Many were in a very weak and ailing condition, and the fact that only five of the number have died speaks well for the care they receive. Though everything about the nursery is of the simplest description, the Mother Superior writes that thanks to climate and other influences the children get on splendidly, but there are many who have to be refused admission for lack of funds. The children are sent from the London hospitals, and from various parts of England, and there must be many who would be willing to support the work of the Sisters if it were better known.

The Mother Superior, who was trained at the Middlesex Hospital many years ago, and has never since ceased nursing, writes that she would be glad indeed if a nurse with some means and recent training felt drawn to help the Sisters in their work.

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