

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

The Standing Committee reported correspondence with Messrs. Morgan, Bruce & Nicholas, of Pontypridd, and the County Medical Officer of Glamorgan, with reference to an alteration made by a certified midwife in her Register of Cases required to be produced in evidence at the hearing of an affiliation summons.

The Chairman stated that the alteration in the entry was acknowledged.

It was decided that the reply be (a) That it is impossible to distinguish with certainty between an eight months' and a nine months' child; (b) That the evidence available is insufficient to prove motive.

APPLICATIONS.

For Removal from the Roll.—The applications of nine midwives for the removal of their names from the Roll of Midwives were considered, and it was decided that the applications be granted. The Secretary was directed to remove the names from the Roll of Midwives, and to cancel the certificates.

For Approval to undertake the practical training of pupil midwives.—The application of Miss Alexandra Elizabeth White, No. 24274, for approval to undertake the practical training of midwives was granted. Miss White is at present temporary County Superintendent in Cheshire.

REPORT OF PENAL CASES COMMITTEE.

Mr. Julius Bertram, solicitor to the Board, informed it that Lucy Henrietta Stock (late 34004) was lodging an appeal against the sentence of the Board. The Solicitor to the Board was instructed to defend any proceedings taken against it.

It will be remembered that there was no charge of professional incompetence against this midwife, whose name was removed from the Roll in consequence of a charge of moral delinquency which the Board considered proved.

THE L.C.C. AND SCHOOLS FOR MOTHERS.

At its meeting on Tuesday last, the Education Committee of the L.C.C. reported to the Council, in relation to Schools for Mothers, that—

Schools for mothers, which are of comparatively recent origin, have considerably increased in number during the past few years, and there is now one of these institutions in most of the metropolitan boroughs.

The chief aim of these schools is the provision of instruction and training for mothers in the care and management of young children, with a view to the prevention of infantile mortality and of those ailments and defects which are likely to retard the development of children.

The activities of the schools include—(a) Infant consultations; (b) home visiting and meals for mothers; (c) systematic classes in health, infant care, home nursing, first aid, cookery and needlework.

The Council has, under its scheme for supplying

teachers to clubs, mothers' meetings, and similar institutions, assisted materially in the work of these schools.

Instruction in health subjects has been given by lecturers chosen from the appropriate panel or by qualified officers of the particular institution concerned, who have been specially approved for the purpose; while the Council's permanent peripatetic staff has been utilised for the lessons in domestic subjects.

The institutions have been conducted under the regulations of the Board of Education for technical schools, and the authorities of such institutions have contributed to the Council out of the grant earned a sum of rs. for each lesson given by the Council's instructors.

In the session 1913-14 a sum of £367 12s. was expended in respect of the salaries of teachers provided by the Council in schools for mothers; the amount receivable by the Council as a contribution out of the grant being estimated at £40 6s. The net cost to the Council of these institutions is therefore approximately £327 6s.

The Board of Education have recently issued new regulations for the payment of grants to schools for mothers, whereby the amount of grant may, where the work is efficient, be increased and brought into closer relation with the cost of the work, the maximum grant being one-half of the approved expenditure which includes (a) Salaries of medical officers, (b) salaries of superintendent and other paid members of the staff, (c) payments for teachers.

The issue of these regulations necessitates a reconsideration of the Council's position in regard to schools for mothers.

The contribution to the Council on the basis of rs. a lesson, although reasonable on account of the smallness of the grant hitherto paid by the Board, involved the Council in nearly the whole of the expenditure on teachers' salaries. The Education Committee consider that under the new regulations it would be a more equitable arrangement for the Council to pay half the cost of the salaries of instructors and lecturers, the other half being paid by the Board.

In view of the generous help which the Board propose to give to these schools, it is reasonable to anticipate that there will be considerable development in the work, entailing increased expense on the Council.

PAINLESS PARTURITION.

A writer in the *Medical Record* relates his experience with heroin as a means of relieving the pain attending childbirth. He gives one-twelfth grain of heroin hydrochlorate, hypodermically, as soon as the pains begin. Within twenty minutes the patient becomes drowsy, and no longer suffers from the pains. The need of bearing down when she feels the contractions is impressed upon her. The physician leaves the patient, sometimes for an hour or two, until labour is well-advanced. The effect of the one-twelfth grain dose lasts usually about three hours.

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