

# The Midwife.

## THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

A meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board's Offices, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, February 18th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

The Secretary reported that Sir Francis Champneys, Mr. Parker Young, and Sir Shirley Murphy had been nominated by the bodies they respectively represent for another term of office.

### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

On the report of the Standing Committee:— Correspondence with a candidate for examination, who had tendered a marriage certificate which was found to have been tampered with, was considered. Correspondence on the same subject with Mrs. A. E. Dewar, of Horton House, Rugby, Honorary Treasurer of the Rugby District Nursing Association, was also considered.

The Board decided that the candidate be not admitted to the examination until her certificates are in order to the satisfaction of the Board.

Letters were received from the Honorary Secretary of the Clapham Maternity Hospital asking if a candidate, who had tendered a birth certificate which had been tampered with, might be admitted to the April Examination. The Board declined to alter its decision.

A letter was received from an Approved Midwife complaining of the conduct of one of her pupils who desired to enter for the Examination of February 11th, and stating that she had found it impossible to teach her aseptic methods. Letters were read from the Matron of the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, on the same subject.

The Board decided (a) That in consequence of the representations of the Training Midwife the Board declines to accept the Schedule of the pupil. (b) That the Training Midwife be asked for an explanation of her having signed a certificate to the effect that the pupil had attended the cases "to her satisfaction."

A letter was received from the Local Government Board transmitting a copy of an application received from the Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives for a grant in aid of their work, and asking to be furnished with the observations of the Central Midwives Board on the subject.

The Board agreed that the Local Government Board be informed that the objects of the Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives are good and its Council contains many well-known names, and that the Board believes that it belongs to a group of Institutions which are doing valuable work, and all of which deserve encouragement.

A letter was received from the Medical Inspector of Midwives of the City of Bristol asking whether a midwife is entitled to operate on a case of tongue-tie. The Board decided to reply in the negative.

### MIDWIVES' DOOR PLATES.

A letter was read from the County Medical Officer of Health of Lancashire asking whether certain specified instances of inscriptions on the door plates of midwives in the County contravene the provisions of Rule E. 27. It was decided that the County Medical Officer of Health of Lancashire be informed that the door plates quoted do not infringe Rule E. 27.

The significance of the letter of the County Medical Officer of Health for Lancashire, and of the reply of the Central Midwives Board is to prove distinctly that the title of nurse is one which has no meaning and may be used with impunity by anyone. The title of midwife, on the contrary, is protected by law, and anyone not certified under the Midwives' Act using the name of midwife is liable, on summary conviction, to a fine of £5.

In regard to the three instances in which the County Medical Officer asked for a ruling as to whether the midwives referred to were entitled to inscribe "Nurse" on their doorplates, he wrote, "The women are certified midwives styling themselves on their plates as 'Nurse.' None of them hold a certificate in general nursing.

"1. Attended a course of instruction at St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, and passed a satisfactory examination, so is now competent to act as a monthly nurse.

"2. Trained in the Manchester Maternity Hospital as Monthly Nurse, and is fully qualified to act as such.

"3. Had three years' training in surgical and sick nursing under a medical practitioner. (No institution training and does not possess a certificate)."

We hope that nurses who have conscientiously qualified for their work by undergoing a three years' course of training in a general hospital, will note that the only title they can claim is the same as that which can be used by women with a few months' special training, or after no institution training at all but three years "training" under a medical practitioner, whatever that may mean, while the effect of the registration of midwives is that the title of midwife is fully protected. We hope that the County Medical Officer of Health for Lancashire will do all in his power to support the Nurses' Registration Bill in charge of Dr. Chapple.

### CLEANLINESS IMPOSSIBLE.

A letter was read from the Acting County Medical Officer of Health of Berkshire asking the

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