

it was often entirely unsuspected. Unless the Wassermann test was applied to every pregnant woman it was impossible to discover it.

The question was often asked: Should persons who had suffered from syphilis marry? The answer definitely was, Yes, if completely cured. How soon? There is no rule. They may marry at the end of four or five years if the Wassermann test is satisfactory.

As to the duties of nurses and midwives with regard to this disease, the lecturer considered that they play a most important part in the intelligent application of its treatment.

The rules of the Central Midwives Board, relating to the knowledge of the midwife on this subject, are, he considered, inadequate. Not till 1913 did the examination questions include this subject, which showed it was not considered of much importance. It was the duty of all nurses and midwives to acquaint themselves with the symptoms of syphilis, and to urge patients suffering from it to present themselves for treatment. The best way of stamping out this evil, is the education of the public, and there is no class more suitable for this work than nurses and midwives.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

The first meeting of the Central Midwives Board after the summer recess was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, S.W., on Thursday, October 7th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was received from the Colonial Office transmitting a copy of an Ordinance passed by the legislature of the Straits Settlements dealing with the training and practice of midwives and asking for the observations of the Board on the matter. It was agreed that the Chairman and Secretary be authorised to convey the views of the Board to the Colonial Office.

A letter was received from a candidate for the Board's examination, asking the Board to reconsider its decision not to admit her to Examination by reason of the falsification of her birth certificate. Also one from Miss M. Ritchie, Honorary Secretary of the Clapham Maternity Hospital, supporting the application.

The Board decided that the candidate be not admitted to Examination until February 1916.

A letter was received from the Hon. Mrs. Stanley, Honorary Secretary of the Somerset County Nursing Association, asking the Board to reconsider its decision not to admit a candidate to Examination by reason of the falsification of her marriage certificate.

The Board decided that the Hon. Mrs. Stanley be informed that in the absence of a correct certificate the Board is unable to reconsider its decision.

A letter was received from the Town Clerk of Wallasey with further observations on the Board's action in the case of Florence Gertrude McFall, No. 24589, against whom the Town Council found a *prima facie* case of negligence to be established. The Board declined to enter into a discussion with the County Borough of Wallasey as to their decision.

A letter was received from the Acting Registrar of the General Medical Council with reference to a case of apparent "covering" of an unqualified woman acting as a midwife by a registered medical practitioner.

A letter was read from the Town Clerk of Southend-on-Sea on the same subject.

The Board decided: (a) That the Privy Council be asked to request the Local Government Board to take an opportunity of calling the attention of Local Supervising Authorities to the prevalence of the practice of midwifery by unqualified persons, and to the advisability, in the public interest, of instituting proceedings in Courts of Law against persons who commit breaches of the Midwives Act, particularly in respect of women practising as midwives against the provisions of Section 1 (2); and before the General Medical Council in respect of medical practitioners "covering" such women.

(b) That the Solicitor to the Central Midwives Board be authorised to present the case before the General Medical Council.

The Secretary reported the presentation by a candidate for the Examination of October 25th of of a baptismal certificate which had been tampered with.

It was decided that the candidate should not be admitted to examination.

A letter was read from the Rev. S. E. Dodderidge asking the Board to authorise midwives to sign certificates of death.

It was decided the Rev. S. E. Dodderidge be informed that the Board has no power to comply with his request.

APPLICATIONS.

The following applications to be granted:—

For removal from the Roll.—The applications of 11 midwives for removal from the Roll were granted.

For Appointment as Examiner.—Dr. Trevor Berwyn Davies, F.R.C.S., was appointed an additional examiner.

For Recognition as Lecturer.—The applications of Mr. Charles Stuart Vines, M.R.C.S., D.P.H., and Dr. Mary Campbell Watson, for recognition as lecturers were granted, and those of Dr. Percy Hugh Benson, Mr. Gordon Ley, F.R.C.S. and Dr. Hugh Powell were granted *pro tem*.

For Approval to undertake the practical training of Pupil Midwives.—Midwives Harriett Louisa Dolton (No. 32960), Caroline Beatrice Major (No. 36943) and Bessie Calderhead (No. 5507), and Margaret Cornelia Lancaster (No. 7808) *pro tem*.

The reports of the Finance Committee and the Penal Cases Committee were received, and the meeting terminated.

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