

The Midwife.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

A meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster on Thursday, November 18th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

The Secretary reported a letter from the Clerk of the Privy Council approving new regulations framed by the Board under Section C., which will come into force on July 1st, 1916. Under these regulations the length of training required for pupil midwives will be extended from three to six months, with the exception of nurses who are fully trained, when the minimum period will be four months.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

A further letter was considered from the Hon. Mrs. Stanley, Hon. Secretary of the Somerset County Nursing Association, with regard to a case in which the Board had declined 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 if and when a correct certificate is furnished by the candidate it is prepared to reconsider her case, in accordance with its communication of October 8th.

A letter was read from Mrs. Edith V. Reid, Hon. Secretary of the Swansea District Nursing Association, suggesting that the number of cases of personal delivery required by a candidate entering for examination should be reduced during the period of the War from 20 to 15 in order to meet the difficulties arising out of the present decline in the birth rate.

It was agreed that the Hon. Secretary of the Swansea District Nursing Association be informed that the Board regrets that it is unable to adopt the suggestion of the Association. It is however glad to inform it that the Board has this day received from the Privy Council its approval of the scheme suggested by the Board on June 17th for prolonging the training of pupil midwives to six months. It hopes that this will suffice to reduce the inconvenience complained of.

A letter was read from the County Medical Officer of Health of Leicestershire enquiring whether certain cancer conditions come within the provisions of Rule E. 5, as being conditions "supposed to be infectious."

It was agreed that the County Medical Officer of Health of Leicestershire be informed that the conditions specified come within the scope of those referred to in Rule E. 5 as being "liable to be a source of infection."

A letter was read from the Medical Officer of Health of the County Borough of Leicester asking to what extent a midwife is under statutory

obligation to carry out the orders of a medical practitioner who has been called in to a lying-in woman.

It was agreed that the Medical Officer of Health of the County Borough of Leicester be informed that according to Rule E. 6 the midwife must (after a doctor has been sent for) "await his arrival and faithfully carry out his instruction."; according to Rule E. 5 she cannot attend any other maternity patient without adequate disinfection. But for the doctor to dismiss the midwife because the patient is believed to have Puerperal Fever, and in the absence of proved neglect, is nowhere sanctioned by the rules. Generally speaking it is other cases who have to be safeguarded (from Puerperal Fever) rather than the patient in question.

A letter was read from the Medical Officer of Health of the County Borough of Stoke-on-Trent calling attention to the fact that a midwife approved by the Board for the training of pupil midwives at Stoke-on-Trent has no provision in her house for a separate bedroom for her pupils.

It was agreed that the Medical Officer of Health of the County Borough of Stoke-on-Trent be informed that the Board cannot approve of any midwife training pupils unless she has proper domestic accommodation for them, which does not appear to be the case in the present instance, and that the midwife be so informed.

APPLICATIONS.

For removal from the Roll.—Applications from midwives for the removal of their names from the Roll were granted on the grounds of old age, ill-health, and inability to comply with the rules.

For Recognition as Lecturer.—The application of Dr. David Hammand Fraser was granted, and those of Dr. William Edward Moore Ede and Mr. Lionel Pierrepont Shadbolt, F.R.C.S., granted *pro tem*. One application was adjourned, and one refused.

In the last case Mr. Parker Young moved that the applicant be approved, otherwise the pupil midwives would have to go about twenty miles for their lecture. As the applicant was willing to lecture he considered it would be an injustice to the gentleman concerned as well as to the pupils to refuse his application. The amendment was not seconded.

To Undertake the Practical Training of Pupils.—The application of Mr. Heaton Clark Howard, M.R.C.S., was granted *pro hac vice*.

The application of Miss Mary Ellen Stott (No. 34006) was granted.

PENAL BOARDS.

The next meetings of the Board for the hearing of charges against certified midwives were fixed for December 16th and 17th at 11 a.m.

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