

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

A special meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Tuesday, July 20th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding, to consider the charges against fourteen certified midwives, with the following results:—

Struck off the Roll and Certificate Cancelled.—Midwives Jeromma Baker (No. 14455), Sarah Ann Bennison (No. 8336), Hannah Brown (No. 19802), Elizabeth Cooke (No. 15498, Q.C.H. Cert.), Leah Dunn (No. 15699), Bridget Ann Fallowfield (No. 19304), Annie Richards (No. 3636), Mary Sivill (No. 578), Emily Wakefield (No. 3133), Alice Whatmough (No. 13611).

Report Asked for in Three and Six Months' Time.—Midwife Mary Collins (No. 1554).

Report Asked for in Three Months' Time.—Midwife Charlotte Major (No. 41223, C.M.B. Cert.).

Judgment Adjourned.—Louisa Alice White (No. 34333, C.M.B. Cert.).

In one instance the Board considered the case not proved, and no action was taken.

A final report on Betty Smeatham (No. 11921) was received; as it was satisfactory, no action was taken.

Interim reports on four other midwives were received, three were struck off the Roll, and in the case of the fourth her report being satisfactory no action was taken.

A curious feature in the case of Charlotte Major was that, although she obtained her C.M.B. certificate only last year, the inspector reported her as being unable to take pulse or temperature. Her records of pulses showed a uniform of 60, and her explanation of this to the inspector was that she did not allow the pulse to go over this rate. The midwife, however, attended and successfully recorded the Chairman's pulse and read the thermometer correctly.

THE STATE AND MATERNITY CENTRES.

By agreement between the Local Government Board and the Board of Education a joint scheme has been arranged under which grants will be given in aid of maternity centres and of schools for mothers. Grants are now paid by both Government departments in aid of schools for mothers, baby clinics and dispensaries, and maternity centres, which aim at promoting the health of mothers and little children not registered in day nurseries, nursery schools, or public elementary schools. The following arrangements have now been adopted with the approval of the Treasury, to take effect from April 1st of the present year:—

1. The Local Government Board will pay grants in respect of approved institutions or agencies provided by a sanitary authority (or county council acting through its public health committee) or for the work of which a sanitary authority (or county council) takes entire financial responsibility. These

grants to institutions will be made under the general heading of grants for maternity centres.

2. The Board of Education will pay grants in respect of schools for mothers as defined in Article 2 of their Regulations for the year 1914-15, subject to the following qualifications: (a) That an institution will not be recognised as a school for mothers unless collective instruction by means of systematic classes forms an integral part of its work; (b) that grant will only be paid in respect of "infant consultations" which are provided for women attending a school for mothers; (c) that grant will only be paid in respect of expenditure on "home visiting" of children registered at a school for mothers if neither the sanitary authority nor county council undertake to arrange for such visiting; (d) the fact that a school for mothers receives a grant or assistance from a sanitary authority (or a county council) or its officers will not disqualify it from receiving a grant from the Board of Education.

3. The Local Government Board will pay grants in respect of voluntary infant consultations which are not aided by the Board of Education as schools for mothers, only if they are directly connected with the work of a sanitary authority (or a county council).

As a rule State aid to a single institution or agency will be given by one department only, regard being had to the predominant character of the institution or agency, but joint aid in exceptional cases is not precluded.

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.

A Conference of the Directors of the Aberdeen Maternity Hospital and representatives of Approved Societies under the National Health Insurance Act, convened by the Scottish Health Insurance Commissioners, was held at the Town Hall, Aberdeen, on Thursday, July 15th. Dr. McVail, Vice-President of the Commission, presided, and in the course of his opening remarks said that when the Insurance Act was passed it came into touch with many spheres of public interest, and public activity, and many interests felt they might be injuriously affected by the Act. Some of the fears in regard to maternity hospitals had now been dissipated, but there were still points open for consideration. Under the Act it was possible for a Maternity Hospital to make agreements with the approved societies as to the portion of the medical benefits that should go to the hospitals and the portion that should go to the insured person. It was understood that the societies were taking a very reasonable view of their duties to the hospitals, but he believed that even in Aberdeen there was room for improvement. He thought there was a need for a uniform arrangement between the hospitals and the societies.

A similar meeting, at which Dr. McVail also presided, was held in Dundee on July 16th. At both resolutions were passed urging that a Midwives Bill for Scotland should be passed at the earliest opportunity.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)