

## CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

### MONTHLY MEETING.

A meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Office, Caxton House, Westminster, on Thursday, January 20th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

### REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was read from the Clerk of the Council transmitting a copy of a letter from the Local Government Board with regard to the practice of midwifery by uncertified women.

A letter was read from the Clerk to the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital regretting that they had no opportunity of expressing their views upon the Board's proposals to extend the minimum period of training for midwives to six months.

The Board decided that the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital be informed that public notice of the Board's intention to extend the period of training was given on March 11th, 1915, and that the Central Midwives Board believed that all those engaged in the training of midwives kept themselves informed of the proceedings of the Board.

A letter was reported from the Secretary of Queen Charlotte's Hospital asking the Board to postpone the operation of the new rules of training until January, 1917, and a letter to the same effect from the Secretary of the City of London Lying-in Hospital.

It was agreed in both instances to reply that public notice of the Board's intention to extend the period of training was given on March 11th, 1915, and that the Central Midwives Board believed that all those engaged in the training of midwives kept themselves informed of the proceedings of the Board. The Board regrets that it is unable to accede to the suggestion, (a) of the Committee of Management of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, (b) the Committee of Management of the City of London Lying-in Hospital that the operation of the new rules should be postponed until January, 1917.

Correspondence with Miss B. M. Harris, Chairman of the Committee of the Dempster Cottage Nurses' Home, Hale, Farnham, with regard to a certified midwife whom the Committee had found it necessary to dismiss from their employ was considered.

The Board decided to reply that, as the person who charged the midwife with improper conduct is unwilling to take steps to substantiate the charges brought, the Board is unable to take any action in the matter.

A letter was received from the County Medical Officer of Health of Essex informing the Board that the County Council of Essex has decided to delegate the administration of the Midwives Act within the County to any borough with a population of 20,000 presenting a Maternity and Infant Welfare scheme approved by the County Council.

It was decided to reply that the County Medical

Officer of Health of Essex be informed that the Board greatly regrets to hear that the Essex County Council proposes to delegate its powers and duties under the Midwives Act 1902, and suggests that the County Council should reconsider its decision as, in the opinion of the Central Midwives Board, such delegation is bound to impair the effective administration of the Act.

The Secretary reported the exclusion from the examination of December 15th of a candidate who had been found on the previous day to be in a state of intoxication while on duty as a nurse.

The Chairman reported the progress of negotiations with reference to the Board's offices, and it was agreed that, subject to a draft lease to be approved by the Board's solicitor, the premises in Queen Anne's Gate Buildings submitted by Messrs. Trollope & Sons be taken on a lease of 7, 14 or 21 years at a rental of £445 per annum, to include rates and taxes.

### APPLICATIONS.

*For Recognition as Lecturer.*—The following application was granted:—Ada Jackson, M.B.

*To Undertake the Practical Training of Pupils.*—The following application was granted *pro hac vice*:—Noel Morley Gustave Herbert, L.R.C.P., and S.I.

*Of Certified Midwives for Approval to Undertake the Practical Training of Pupils.*—The following applications were granted:—Midwives Hannah Williams (No. 28256), Maria Eliza Williams (No. 7962), Florence Wood (No. 37397), Jane Parnell (No. 36233), Beatrice Twist (No. 39250), and that of Midwife Emily Stephens (No. 26939) *pro hac vice*.

The approval of Marion Taylor (No. 26313) was extended to March 31st, 1916.

Special Meeting of the Board for hearing penal cases will be held on Thursday and Friday, February 17th and 18th, at 11 a.m.

### PENAL BOARD.

A Penal Meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, S.W., on Friday, January 21st (Sir Francis Champneys presiding), to consider charges against midwives, with the following results:—

*Struck off the Roll and Certificate Cancelled.*—Christina Peattie Forsyth Ghosh (No. 32731), Ann Goodman (No. 20842), Mary Ellinor Knight (No. 5249), Rose Jane Lewry (No. 15768), Alice Hannah Sinclair (No. 33971), Harriette Annie Steele (No. 22060), Mary Caroline Vincent (No. 14914).

*Judgment Postponed: Local Supervisory Authority to Report in Six Months.*—Ellen Healy (No. 12094).

Two of the accused women wrote from prison, asking that the hearing of their cases might be postponed till they were liberated. One was undergoing a sentence of two months for drunkenness and the other a sentence of nine months for the performance of an illegal operation.

Two midwives in their defence stated that the medical men sent for had refused to attend.

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