

the ante-natal work would naturally fall to her. Where the midwife is aware of pregnancy abnormalities or complications she is even now made responsible for telling the family that medical help must be obtained. And Dr. News-holme in the L.G.B. Report on Maternal Mortality says: "It is hoped that in future careful inquiry will be made by the midwife as to their (*i.e.*, abnormalities and complications) existence before the actual confinement." At the present time there are strong arguments for placing the ante-natal work in the hands of health visitors, and until the supply of registered midwives is adequate it might be the best plan to leave it there unless and until it can be shown that a woman is booked with a midwife holding the C.M.B. certificate.

Miss Llewelyn Davies considers that a better scheme of training should be inaugurated of at least one year, and include instruction in nursing and infant feeding. When municipal maternity hospitals, a crying need, are established, they will form additional training grounds.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

MONTHLY MEETING.

The monthly meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board's offices, Caxton House, S.W., on April 13th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

A letter was received from Dr. George Reid, County Medical Officer of Health of Staffordshire, explaining his attitude with regard to the habit of the Leek Urban District Council and its Health Visitor in dealing with cases of ophthalmia neonatorum occurring in the practice of a certified midwife. It will be remembered that in a recent case heard by the Board it transpired that a Health Visitor, visiting a case where a midwife was in attendance, on the day after the confinement, had treated the baby's eyes; the Board therefore resolved that such arrangements "in cases in which a certified midwife is responsible are likely to confuse the midwives, and to interfere with the efficient carrying out of the rules of the Board for the protection of the eyes of infants." It was agreed that Dr. Reid be thanked for his letter.

A letter was received from the Local Government Board with regard to the opinion expressed by the Central Midwives Board as to the propriety of visits paid by a Health Visitor to the house of a lying-in woman during the period of a midwife's attendance on the case. It was agreed that the Local Government Board be furnished with a copy of the correspondence.

Further correspondence was considered with Dr. E. J. Maclean, of Cardiff, with regard to the acceptance of the curriculum and system of training which he proposes to adopt in connection with the Glamorgan County Free Midwifery Students as a compliance with the requirements of the new Rules C. 1 and 2.

It was agreed that Dr. Maclean be informed

that it appears to the Board that the course of instruction given by him, (which the Board fully believes to be excellent) is given to women with a view to an examination to be held for the purpose of ascertaining whether they are or are not fit to be granted scholarships in midwifery. Such a course of instruction would be antecedent to any definite pupilage in midwifery, and could not therefore be considered as forming part of any midwifery curriculum.

A letter was received from Dr. W. E. Fothergill, one of the Board's examiners at the Liverpool and Manchester Centre, suggesting amendments to Rule C. 1 (2) with a view to meeting the case of candidates who have had a three years' training in a Public Special Hospital for Women or a Public Special Hospital for Children.

It was agreed that Dr. Fothergill be informed that the Board has already completed the revision of the Rules and has forwarded them to the Privy Council for approval. The matter is consequently out of the hands of the Board.

A letter was considered from the County Medical Officer of Health of Devon calling the attention of the Board to an apparent case of "covering" an uncertified woman by a registered medical practitioner in the County.

It was agreed that the papers in the case be forwarded to the General Medical Council with a request that they will take such action in the matter as may seem fit to them and that if so desired the Board will undertake to appear as prosecutors in the case.

A letter was considered from the Secretary of the Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives suggesting that the Board should apply to the Privy Council for power to require the surrender of the certificate of a deceased midwife.

It was agreed that the Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives be informed that the new Rules are already in the hands of the Privy Council, and that the suggestion made by the Association does not commend itself to the Board, inasmuch as it would be at variance with the custom relating to other certificates and diplomas, none of which so far as the Board is aware have to be surrendered on death. The Board feels sure that any request for special powers in the case of midwives would be refused. It is not the possession of a certificate but the presence of her name on the Roll which enables a woman to practise as a midwife.

The form of the Examination Schedules was approved as amended.

A Form of Pulse and Temperature Record was approved, and the Glossary approved as revised.

The applications of sixteen midwives for the removal of their names from the Roll on account of ill-health, old age, or inability to comply with the rules were granted.

APPLICATIONS FOR RE-APPROVAL.

The applications of Midwife C. N. M. Kelsey (No. 6116) and Midwife Eleanor Perham (No. 1116)

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