

## MONTHLY MEETING.

The monthly meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at Caxton House, S.W., on Thursday, June 15th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

A communication was received from the Privy Council forwarding a draft of the new rules. It was agreed that the Privy Council be requested to sanction the rules as amended for a period of five years from July 1st, 1916.

A letter was received from the Medical Officer of Health of Chatham, who wrote enclosing a circular addressed to all midwives practising in the district of Chatham, asking whether they would be willing to supply names and addresses of expectant mothers in order to facilitate ante-natal visiting in connection with Infant Welfare Work, and asking whether the Board was taking any action in regard to such matters. It was agreed to reply that no midwife has any right to give any information concerning her patients to anyone except with the consent of the patient, which should be expressed, if possible, in writing.

The Comptroller of the London County Council, who wrote asking the Board to fix a date when an assistant from his Department might call with a view to seeing the books and documents relating to the Board's accounts, was referred to Section 5 of the Midwives Act, and invited to address himself to the Lord President of the Council.

In relation to the suggested "covering" of uncertified women acting as midwives by a registered medical practitioner, reported by the Devon County Council, the Board recommended that the papers should be forwarded to the General Medical Council, and expressed their readiness to appear as prosecutors.

In relation to a letter from the Clerk of the Durham County Council dealing with the signing of Maternity Benefit Forms by medical practitioners, the Board expressed its readiness to represent any cases to the General Medical Council where it appeared that a medical practitioner was covering midwifery practice by uncertified women.

The Board accepted the invitation of the Board of Education to co-operate with it in approaching the Lords Commissioners of H.M. Treasury with a view to the provision of the funds necessary for providing grants in aid of the training of midwives.

## APPLICATIONS.

The application of University College Hospital for recognition as a training school was granted.

The applications of the following certified midwives for approval to undertake the practical training of pupil midwives were granted:—Midwives Sybil Escombe (No. 27961), Annie Gurd (No. 1060), and Elizabeth West (No. 33557), and of Midwife Eleanor Insley (No. 7721) *pro tem.*

Next week is Post-graduate Week at the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, Lambeth, an annual fixture of both profit and pleasure, to which many midwives look forward.

## LECTURES TO MIDWIVES.

The first lecture of the Advanced Course on Midwifery, under the auspices of the London County Council, was delivered at the West London Hospital, Hammersmith, on Tuesday, June 20th, at 4.30 p.m.

The lecturer was Dr. H. J. F. Simson, and his subject was "Ante-natal Hygiene—Asepsis and Antisepsis." Dr. Simson began by saying that he regarded his audience as specialists. Specialists were those doctors and nurses who had time to think about things which an ordinary nurse or doctor had not time for. It was their business to know all that there is to know of their particular subject. Ten years ago nothing was known about ante-natal hygiene; now an enormous vista of new thought was opening up in connection with it. Like aviation, it was an entirely new job, and nurses must keep abreast with this modern point of view.

The only way to get at the unborn child was through the mother. A healthy father and mother gave the child a good start, which meant everything. When he went to the Royal Academy, he compared it in his own mind with the nursery of a maternity hospital, the many months of unseen work in the studio produced the perfect picture. If the first nine months of visible life were important, the nine months of invisible life were more important still.

He described the wonderful growth of the first ten months of life, both in weight and length. Two tiny cells that could not be seen were the beginning of life, and in three months the human foetus could be recognised. During the fifth month its weight had quadrupled; so with regard to the length, till at full time the child measured 20 inches and weighed 7 lbs.

## A FINE FOOD FOR NURSING MOTHERS.

## REPORT OF VIROL.

Despite the abnormal increase in the cost of manufacture and distribution with which the Company in common with all other industrial enterprises has had to contend, the Report of Virol, Ltd., for the twelve months ending March 31st shows increased profits consequent on a record increase in sales.

The gross profit amounted to £89,189 3s. 2d., as compared with £72,428 6s. 10d. for the previous twelve months.

After deducting Debenture Interest the net profit, including the amount brought forward, is £27,764 7s. 3d., as against £23,013 19s. 1d. for last year. The Directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 12½ per cent. for the year, the placing of £7,500 to reserve, raising that fund to £35,000, and the carrying forward of £12,263 12s. 3d.

Notwithstanding the restrictions and difficulties incident to Export business during the period under review, the Overseas trade of the Company has shown very satisfactory expansion.