

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

THE MONTHLY MEETING.

The monthly meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board's offices, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Dartmouth Street, Westminster, S.W., on Thursday, February 15th. Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

The Secretary reported that the Royal College of Physicians had re-elected Sir Francis Champneys as their representative for one year from April 1st, and the Incorporated Midwives Institute, Sir Shirley Murphy, F.R.C.S.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

Further correspondence was considered with the solicitors of a candidate for examination, stated by the Approved Midwife in whose house she was residing to have taken a variety of drugs and stimulants during the week preceding the Examination of October 24th ult, and in particular during the morning of the first day of the examination. It was decided to refer the statement of the candidate to the Approved Midwife above-mentioned for her comment.

Correspondence was considered concerning falsified certificates of birth, and one of marriage showing material discrepancies, which had been tendered by candidates for admission to the Board's Examination, and fresh certificates having been tendered, the applicants were admitted to examination.

Adjourned correspondence with the Matron of a Maternity Hospital recognised by the Board as a Training School, was considered with reference to the Examination Schedule of two candidates in which the period of training had been incorrectly certified. It was decided to take no further action.

A letter was read from the Acting Registrar of the General Medical Council conveying the request of the President that the Board would forward to the Local Supervising Authorities (a) a copy of a circular letter addressed by the Council to all the registered medical practitioners in England and Wales calling their attention to the provisions of the Midwives Act, 1902, which prohibit any woman, not being certified under the Act, from attending women in child-birth habitually and for gain, otherwise than under the direction of a qualified medical practitioner (b) a copy of a Warning Notice issued by the Council pointing out that any registered medical practitioner proved to have been guilty of "covering" an uncertified woman will be liable to have his name erased from the Medical Register. The Secretary reported that the Local Government Board had expressed a desire to forward from their office the circular letter and the Warning Notice to the various Local Supervising Authori-

ties and that the General Medical Council had agreed to this being done.

It was agreed that the Central Midwives Board had no objection to the Local Government Board distributing the circular letter and Warning Notice of the General Medical Council as suggested by the Local Government Board.

A letter was considered from the Town Clerk of Bath reporting the conviction of an uncertified woman for a breach of the Midwives Act, and requesting the Board to consider the conduct and action of a medical practitioner in connection with the case. It was decided to forward the papers to the General Medical Council.

In a similar case the papers were handed to the Board's solicitor with a request that he would consider the evidence and advise the Board as to whether action should be taken in the matter.

Fifteen applications were received from certified midwives for the removal of their names from the Roll, on the ground of old age, ill-health, &c. The applications were granted.

The revised lists of approved training schools and lecturers for the year beginning April 1st were approved.

The application of midwife Emily Marion Sterling (No. 25193) for approval as a trainer was granted.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Secretary presented the report of the Finance Committee, which showed an adverse balance of £3,375, at the close of the year, which would have to be recovered from the Local Authorities. It was agreed that the accounts as audited be approved and forwarded to the Privy Council with the request that they would approve the balance for collection.

The Annual Meeting of the Royal Maternity Charity was held at the Charity's House, 31, Finsbury Square, E.C., on February 14th. The secretary's statistical report showed that 621 cases were attended in the year and 641 infants born. The medical report stated that out of these cases attended by midwives there had been only one death, the cause being heart failure.

The Midwives Act Committee of the L.C.C. report that the Local Government Board has recently investigated the arrangements for the inspection to midwifery in London, and has made representations to the effect that whilst the two inspectors of midwives carry out their duties with great zeal and ability, they are unable, in the time at their disposal, to perform all the duties necessary in connection with midwives in London, and the Board has invited the Council to consider the question of substantially increasing the staff available for the purpose at the earliest favourable opportunity.

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