

## CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

## PENAL CASES.

A Special Meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at Queen's Gate Buildings, Westminster, on Wednesday, March 14th, to consider charges alleged against twelve midwives, with the following results:—

*Struck off the Roll and Certificate Cancelled.*—

Mary Cooper (No. 1549), Mary Elizabeth Daniells (No. 14369), Mary Fulcher (No. 42426), Elizabeth Hughes (No. 14968), Ellen McDonald (No. 16501), Emma Mitchell (No. 13758), Mary Pitt (No. 1717), Mary Thacker (No. 4000), Emma Wootton (No. 2327).

*Cautioned. Report in three and six months.*—

Kate Rutter (1983), Mary Ellen Wilkinson (38060).  
*Adjourned, for sentence at the end of six months, with an interim report at three months.*—Jane Butler (No. 2133).

Of the twelve women, seven were charged with negligence in failing to obtain medical assistance for infants with discharge from and inflammation of the eyes. Three of these infants subsequently died, and one, who had lost the sight in one eye, was brought by the mother to the enquiry. The midwife, Fulcher, in this case, who held the certificate of the Central Midwives Board, absolutely denied the allegations of the mother as to the delay in obtaining assistance. In answer to questions from the Board, she said she did not intend to practise again, as it wasn't worth it. The Board decided that in that case her name had better be removed from the Roll. The Inspector gave a very good report of her work, and she was informed that she could, if she wished, apply for reinstatement.

Two sad cases of maternal deaths were reported. In one case, an unmarried girl, the perinæum was torn up to the sphincter. The injury was not discovered by the midwife, as she admitted she had never washed the patient, but had left this duty to the mother. Medical evidence went to prove that her chance of recovery would have been "greatly improved," if she had been properly treated.

The second case, a married woman, was, when medical aid was summoned, "in a hopeless condition; serious symptoms must have been present for at least sixty hours."

The midwife admitted she did not take pulse and temperature.

Midwife Pitt was charged with using obscene language and had been fined ten shillings for the offence at the Petty Sessions.

The Chairman observed that it was a heavy fine; he believed one was allowed to say a good deal for five shillings.

A letter from the midwife's daughter explained that her mother used only "ordinary language."

Midwife Daniells, now undergoing twelve months imprisonment for unlawfully killing Florence Mary Sturley, was represented by her solicitor, who asked for postponement of sentence until after her release. He said that an appeal was to have

been made to the Court of Criminal Appeal, against the sentence, but that the woman had been persuaded by the wardresses to abandon it. He was preparing a petition to the Home Secretary, as he thoroughly believed in her innocence and thought the jury prejudiced from beginning to end. The Board decided that it could not revise the decision of the Court, and removed her name from the Roll, but added that she could re-apply.

## BABY WEEK.

The Prime Minister has consented to act as President of the National Committee organizing "Baby Week," which is to begin on Sunday, July 1st.

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME.

*Sunday.*—Special sermons in all churches and special lessons in Sunday schools with reference to child welfare. At all the cinema houses, one film relating to this subject.

*Monday.*—Central Child Welfare Exhibition.

*Tuesday.*—A meeting of Health Associations at the Guildhall; speakers, Lord Rhondda (Chairman of the Committee) and Mr. H. A. L. Fisher.

*Wednesday.*—Special cinema and theatre matinees.

*Thursday.*—"Open day" at all schools for mothers, crèches and nursery schools.

*Friday.*—A special day in all schools, with mothercraft classes open to the public.

*Saturday.*—A large garden party meeting, probably at the Botanical Gardens.

A similar programme will be followed in all the big cities.

It is computed that, as the result of similar weeks held in Paris, Copenhagen, and the United States of America, the lives of many babies have been saved.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

At a recent meeting of the Nottinghamshire County Council, at which Lord Galway presided, the Public Health Committee presented a scheme relative to maternity and child welfare, providing for the appointment of a medical woman to undertake the organisation of maternity and infant welfare centres, and to act as superintendent inspector of midwives, and incorporating the provisions that the Council appoint and pay such health visitors and nurses as may be necessary, and that steps be taken to establish maternity and infant welfare centres in districts where the work is not already being carried out, the Council to provide a sum not exceeding £800 per annum from the county rate, the rate being levied on the districts benefited. It is hoped to bring the scheme into operation gradually, the centres to be increased as experience is gained and the need arises.

The latest form of leave in the Army is "cradle leave." It is only granted as a special dispensation to officers on active service who have had children born during their absence at the front.

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