

It was agreed that the London County Council be thanked for their communication.

APPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY REMOVAL OF NAME FROM THE ROLL.

Applications were received from eighteen women for the removal of their names from the Roll on the grounds specified.

The applications were granted and the secretary was directed to remove their names from the Roll of Midwives, and to cancel their Certificates.

APPLICATION FOR RECOGNITION AS LECTURER.

The following application was granted pro tem:—

Isaac Crawford, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., Edin.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The report of the finance committee showed that the deficit at the end of the financial year was heavier than usual. £350 had been lost on examination fees, and printing, owing to the increase in prices, had cost £312 more.

PENAL CASES.

A Special Meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at Queen Anne's Gate Building, Dartmouth Street, Westminster, on Friday, January 19th, to consider charges against eight midwives, with the following results:—

Struck off the Roll and Certificate Cancelled.—Ann Davis (No. 10226), Emma Edwards (No. 20639), Elizabeth Harris (No. 31849), Ellen Mary Eliza Kerens, C.M.B. Examination (No. 31706), Mary Mitchell (No. 31062), Ann Winstanley (No. 3574).

Adjourned.—Annie Belshaw, C.M.B. Examination (No. 33318), Eveline Alice Farnes, C.M.B. Examination (No. 44353).

Final Report.—Harriett Burton. No action taken.

The case of Midwife Belshaw, charged with failing to obtain medical assistance for, and neglecting to notify two cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, was complicated by absolutely contradictory evidence in two documents from the same witness, and also from the fact that the health visitor treated the eyes of an infant during the lying in period. Miss Paget said she considered the health visitor had taken over the case, but the Chairman held that it did not exonerate the midwife from obeying the rules of the C.M.B.

The charge against Midwife Davis was that the case being one in which no presentation could be made out she did not obtain medical assistance, and further that when the arm presented she pulled upon the arm in order to assist delivery. Medical evidence showed that when delivery was effected the child was still born, and one arm was attached to the body only by a strip of skin.

The midwife who was present denied the charge.

The Chairman described the case as one of the worst that had ever been before the Board.

Midwife Farnes was charged with causing to be inserted in the press an advertisement to the effect that she was opening a home where Twilight Sleep and Painless Childbirth could be obtained

and further by appending to her name the initial letters C.M.B. contrary to the rules.

The midwife, who was present and defended herself, said that she had worded the advertisement in a hurry and had omitted to state that the treatment would be given under medical supervision. It had not been her intention to administer it or to act as a midwife. She had notified the Local Supervising Authority that it was *not* her intention to practise. With regard to the initials of the C.M.B., she had thoughtlessly inserted them and regretted having done so. The patients in her home were sent in by a medical woman who administered the treatment, but she would receive any patient who desired to choose their own medical attendant.

The Board adjourned the case till March, in order that the correctness of these statements might be proved.

In the case of Midwife Harris, the Medical Officer of Health for Carnarvonshire gave evidence, and proved the unreliability of the midwife's statements by saying that it took him an hour to walk to the top of Great Orme, and the midwife had stated she accomplished it in twenty minutes. The mother of the infant stated that the midwife had bound up the powder box in the baby's binder, causing it much discomfort.

The charge against Midwife Kerens was another case of failing to recognise a transverse presentation and medical help was not obtained for two days after the rupture of the membranes. The doctor was unable to effect the delivery and the patient was removed to the hospital, hysterectomy performed, and death ensued.

The Chairman said it was an awful tragedy, but these were insidious cases which had caught out many medical men. The inspector gave evidence that she had been unable to make the midwife grasp the gravity of the situation, or that she had been to blame.

The Chairman in passing sentence said that it was more her attitude to what she had done than for the result that had ensued, that the Board decided to remove her name, but at the age of thirty-five she must be capable of improvement unless she was hopelessly stupid, and there was such a thing as reinstatement.

LECTURES AT THE BATTERSEA POLYTECHNIC.

A course of six lectures on Acts and Regulations relating to infants and children, and subjects of special interest to Health Visitors and Child Welfare Workers, will be delivered at the Battersea Polytechnic, Manresa Road, S.W., by Miss M. F. Malim (Bedford College Hygiene Diploma), on Tuesdays at 5.45 p.m., beginning February 20th. Application for forms of admission should be sent to the secretary. Fee for course, 5s.

SCOTTISH MIDWIVES ASSOCIATION.

The Duchess of Montrose has accepted office as the first President of the Scottish Midwives Association, and the Lady Balfour of Burleigh and Lady Susan Gilmour are amongst the Vice-Presidents.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)