

# The Midwife.

## MIDWIFERY IN 1917.

### THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

#### ENGLAND.

Changes have taken place in the constitution of the Central Midwives Board (England) during the past year owing to the resignation of Mr. Parker Young, representative of the Society of Apothecaries of London, and of Mr. Golding Bird, representative of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Mr. Parker Young's resignation, which was greatly regretted, was due to ill-health, and he has since passed away. His successor is Mr. A. H. W. Ayling, Master of the Society of Apothecaries.

Mr. Golding Bird's successor is Dr. W. S. A. Griffith, whose interest in the teaching and examination of midwives dates back to the early days of the Examinations for Midwives instituted by the London Obstetrical Society.

#### SCOTLAND.

Sir Halliday Croom has been appointed Chairman, and Dr. Haig Ferguson, Deputy Chairman of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland. The Board has published its first Register, and conducts examinations in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, and Aberdeen, manifestly a great convenience to midwives trained in Scottish Hospitals, who formerly were obliged to come to one of the English centres for examination if they wished for State recognition of their qualifications.

### THE IRISH MIDWIVES BILL.

In July last the Right Hon. H. E. Duke, K.C., M.P., Chief Secretary for Ireland, announced in the House of Commons that a Midwives Bill had been drafted for Ireland, and if he were assured that it would be non-contentious he would consult the Leader of the House as to its introduction. Presumably Mr. Duke satisfied himself that the Bill would be non-contentious, as on November 12th he introduced into the House of Commons The Midwives (Ireland) Bill "To secure the better training of Midwives in Ireland and to regulate their practice." Unfortunately the persons most concerned—the midwives themselves—were not permitted an opportunity of seeing the Bill until after its introduction into the House, although application had been made on their behalf by the Irish Nurses' Association, which voices the views of midwives as well as nurses in Ireland.

Special meetings of the Irish Nurses' Association were then at once held, the Association communicated with Irish Members of Parliament, and their friends in the House of Commons blocked the Bill until the amendments desired by the Association were considered and formulated.

The Association obtained the powerful support of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, which has consulted not only with the I.N.A., but with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, the

Irish Matrons' Association, the National Union of Women Workers, and the Civic Union, and the amendments they put forward have the unanimous approval of the representatives of all these bodies.

The I.N.A. took strong exception to the constitution of the proposed Central Midwives Board, which, consisting of 13 persons, included only one midwife, who was to be appointed by the Privy Council.

The Royal College of Physicians considers the Board unduly large, and therefore costly, and has framed an Amendment providing for a Board of 11 persons: (1) Four appointed by the Local Government Board, one to be a midwife; (2) four registered medical practitioners; and (3) three certified midwives, resident in Ireland, to be appointed by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

Another important amendment desired is that "All women certified under this Act shall be entitled without further examination to practise in all places which are under the supervision of the Central Midwives Boards of England and Wales, or of Scotland, and when practising in such places, shall be under the control of the Central Midwives Board of England and Wales, or of Scotland, as the case may be. All women on the Rolls of the Central Midwives Boards of England and Wales, and of Scotland, shall be entitled, without further examination to practise in Ireland, and when practising in Ireland shall be under the control of the Central Midwives Board of Ireland."

The Royal College of Physicians also desires that the inspectors appointed shall be whole-time officers, preferably women, independent of the local interests where the inspection is made.

It is proposed that a midwife, aggrieved by the removal of her name from the Roll, shall have right of appeal to the County Court, instead of the High Court.

There are other amendments of lesser importance which appear to be improvements on the Bill as originally drafted.

The Bill has now been put down for a second reading as soon as Parliament re-assembles, but, as there is much other business, it appears unlikely that it will be taken on the first day, but, presumably, the Chief Secretary will accept the amendments, otherwise the Bill could not be regarded as non-contentious.

### THE CARNEGIE UNITED KINGDOM TRUST REPORTS.

In March the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust published two most valuable and exhaustive Reports on the Physical Welfare of Mothers and Children in England and Wales, the first volume being by Dr. E. W. Hope, Medical Officer of Health for the City and Port of Liverpool, and Professor of Public Health in Liverpool University; and the second by Dr. Janet Campbell, one of the Senior Medical Officers of the Board of Educa-

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