

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

PENAL CASES.

A Special Meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, on Wednesday, March 20th, at 2 p.m., Sir Francis Champneys presiding, when the charges alleged against five certified midwives were heard, with the following result:—

Struck off the Roll and Certificate Cancelled.— Florence Annie Parkes (No. 16073), convicted upon an indictment for the manslaughter of a infant and sentenced to six months' imprisonment; Eva Saville (No. 16250), Ann Sephton (No. 3717) and a Midwife (No. 43477), who gave birth to an illegitimate child in January last.

In the fifth case a report was asked for from the Local Supervising Authority in three and six months' time.

MONTHLY MEETING.

The Monthly Meeting of the Central Midwives Board took place on Thursday, March 21st, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

The Chairman reported the death, on March 8th, of Mr. Arthur Henry William Ayling, L.S.A., the representative of the Society of Apothecaries on the Board, who was, he said, an amiable gentleman whom they were sorry to lose. He also welcomed his successor, Mr. Charles Sangster, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., who was present at the meeting.

The Secretary reported that the following members of the Board have been re-appointed:—

Professor Henry Briggs, F.R.C.S., by the Lord President of the Council, and Mr. Leonard Henry West, LL.D., by the County Councils Association, for a period of three years.

Dr. Walton Spencer Anderson Griffith, by the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and Mr Charles Sangster, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., by the Society of Apothecaries, in succession to Mr. H. W. Ayling, L.S.A. Both these appointments are for one year.

Mrs Latter was re-appointed representative of the Royal British Nurses' Association for a period of three years.

The Secretary further reported that the balance shown against the Board for the year 1917, approved by the Lords of the Council for the purpose of the Apportionment of Contributions from the Local Supervising Authorities, is £3,257 7s. 7d.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

On the recommendation of the Standing Committee various cases of candidates for examination who had tendered falsified certificates of birth, or certificates otherwise irregular, were dealt with.

APPLICATIONS.

For Voluntary Removal of Name from the Roll.— Applications were received from twenty-nine midwives asking for the removal of their names from the Roll. The Secretary was directed to remove their names and to cancel their certificates.

LISTS APPROVED.

The Lists of Examiners, of Registered Medical Practitioners, and of Certified Midwives, approved as teachers, for the year ending March 31st, 1919, were approved, one midwife being removed from the list. The applications of Dr. John Johnson, and Mr. David Morgan Jones, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., for approval as teachers were granted *pro hac vice*.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING THE TRAINING AND SUPPLY OF MIDWIVES.

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING.

By the kindness of Mrs. Harmer, the above meeting was held in her house, 9, Park Crescent, N.W., on March 20th. An important Debate in the House of Commons prevented the Right Hon. T. McKinnon Wood from presiding; his place was ably taken by the Hon. Treasurer, Arthur L. Leon, Esq., J.P., L.C.C. After the usual business of the re-election of Hon. Officers, the election to seats on the Council of Lady Plunket and Miss Peterkin, Q.V.J.I.; and the adoption of the annual report and balance sheet, &c., &c., had been dealt with, the Chairman called upon Miss Amy Hughes to give an address on the Association's Memorandum, "A State-aided Midwifery Service," which was the chief feature of the meeting. The speaker said that the purpose of the scheme was the general improvement of the midwifery service, including medical service, the conditions of the mothers and babes, the closely-related home conditions, and a higher standard of pay for the midwives.

The present rate of pay is from 10s. to 15s., which was out of all proportion to their highly responsible work for mother and babe, during the ten days they were in charge. Not only that, said Miss Hughes, but their responsibility began with their careful ante-natal work. In her estimation, it was not a living wage; to which each subsequent speaker agreed, and the meeting cordially endorsed. It was suggested that the fees should be raised to a minimum of 20s. to 25s.; the midwifery allowance under the National Insurance Act had not worked out satisfactorily, because it was left to the mothers how it should be spent—the midwife's fee was not assured.

Miss Hughes thought that the fees should be guaranteed by public bodies, such as the County

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