

# The Midwife.

## CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

A meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the offices of the Board, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, on Thursday, January 10th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

On the recommendation of the Standing Committee:—

Mrs. Latter was appointed to represent the Board at a National Conference, convened by the Child Welfare Council to consider a scheme adopted by that Council, recommending changes in the law with regard to unmarried mothers and the position of illegitimate children.

A letter was considered from the Deputy Medical Secretary of the British Medical Association, calling the Board's attention to an advertisement by a certified midwife offering to attend patients in their own homes for Twilight Sleep treatment. It was decided to cite the midwife to appear before the Board.

The Secretary reported that a candidate for examination on February 1st had tendered a certificate of birth which had been tampered with. It was decided that the candidate should not be admitted to the examination and that the attention of the authorities of the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies be directed to the matter, and that they be informed that the Board considers them responsible for seeing that candidates coming up for the Board's Examination do not present certificates which have been tampered with.

### APPLICATIONS.

It was decided to grant the application of Miss Maddalina Emily Margharita Rossi for approval as a teacher.

Also that the applications of eight midwives for removal from the Roll should be granted.

### MEETINGS OF THE BOARD.

It was decided that the next Penal Board should be held on Wednesday, February 20th, at 1.30 p.m., and the next ordinary meeting on February 21st, at 11 a.m.

### PENAL CASES.

On January 9th and 10th, meetings of the Penal Board were held, Sir Francis Champneys presiding, with the following result:—

*Struck off the Roll and Certificate cancelled.*—Emma Josephine Chapman (No. 21390, L.O.S. certificate); Sarah Gordon (No. 12921); Violet Ethel Rose Morfee (No. 35041, C.M.B. Examination); Dora Rush (No. 10300); Mary Francis Studley (No. 6860).

*Judgment suspended until after Reports from L.S.A. in three and six months' time.*—Jane Anne Leech (No. 14251), Charlotte Ellen Risebrook, (No. 31101), Gertrude Davies (No. 29355, C.M.B.

Examination), Elizabeth Marion Mead (No. 19369), Ellen Simpson (No. 3455).

*Cautioned.*—Bessie Barber (No. 37853, C.M.B. Examination).

## THE DANGER OF IGNORANCE.

It cannot be too earnestly impressed upon all nurses and midwives to safeguard the babies under their care as much as possible in relation to the terrible scourges of syphilis and gonorrhoea. The difficulty, of course, is that it is seldom the mother *knows* that she is suffering from a venereal disease at all. Until women are better educated in such matters babies will continue to be the innocent victims of other people's immorality. Perhaps (one dare not feel too sanguine!) the work of the recent Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases may arouse sufficient interest in the minds of "the woman *in* the street" to make an effort to understand the direful consequences of the great army of "women *on* the street"! One can only approach the whole question of prostitution in a spirit of altruism. It is worse than useless to merely scorn and penalise the unfortunate women of the underworld. Few of them are deliberately vicious. The majority are badly educated, or entirely uneducated, so far as moral and social responsibility is concerned. It is for women with better advantages to ensure that the growing boy and girl shall not pass out into the great world unequipped with the knowledge that may save them. Is it not absurdly illogical to teach our children everything we can which may aid their worldly advancement, and yet to leave them in deepest ignorance and superstition in a matter so vital to their future? Only when sexual hygiene is part of the educational life of every boy and girl shall we see venereal diseases obliterated from our national life.

GLADYS TATHAM.

## THE NEW BABY.

Billy, alias "Binks," was obviously bursting with unusual importance; he was always something of a braggart. He fidgetted so continuously from side to side on the form that it was small wonder that the ventilation in the seat of his little breeches extended in such a manner as to give the impression of much hole, little breeches, and a good deal of Binks.

But the tiresome lesson was over at last, likewise the hymn, likewise the prayer. During the reciting of the latter Binks had sought to hasten matters by the making of hideous faces at the small boy opposite, who, like Binks, was squinting out of one eye. "Amen!" shouted Binks jubilantly just in time to save himself from spontaneous combustion, and then, "We got a new baby," he announced in loud and swaggering tones, "and a new quilt. It costed four bob."

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