

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

The first meeting of the Central Midwives Board after the autumn recess was held at the Board's office, Dartmouth Street, Westminster, on Thursday, October 10th.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

The Standing Committee presented its Report and the following recommendations were considered and action taken.

A letter was reported from the Local Government Board, asking the Central Midwives Board to consider the advisability of framing a new Rule E. 22 (1) (f) in terms similar to the corresponding Rule of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland, which requires a midwife to notify the Local Supervising Authority in the following case:—

* (f) ARTIFICIAL FEEDING.—Whenever under Rule 19 (b) she has advised the substitution of artificial feeding for breast feeding."

It was resolved that the question be adjourned to the next meeting of the Board.

[We think this decision a wise one, and that the question should be thoroughly discussed before this Rule is adopted. If any duty is to be imposed upon the midwife in this connection, it should, in our view, be that she should advise that a medical opinion be obtained before artificial feeding is resorted to, except temporarily. Otherwise the effect may be twofold: (1) To bring a Health Visitor, often with very inferior qualifications, to the midwife, to visit the patient as the midwife's superior officer and possibly to give contrary instructions, which could only result in shaking the confidence of the patient in the midwife; and (2) to institute one rule for the rich and another for the poor. If a Government Department requires the notification of artificial feeding of the infants of the poor, this should also be required when adopted for the infants of all classes of the community. It is the exception for working class infants not to be breast fed, whereas the neglect of this duty by mothers of the wealthy classes, on the most frivolous pretexts, is widespread and scandalous. There are, of course, cases in which artificial feeding is necessary in the interest of the infant but they are comparatively few. Far more often it is adopted because the mother objects to the restrictions imposed upon her if she nurses her child. If, therefore, we are to have notification of artificial feeding of infants, let the rule be imposed on all classes, whether rich or poor.—Ed.]

It was agreed to thank the Local Government Board for its letter enclosing the copy of one from the Medical Officer of Health for St. Helen's

with regard to a "Form of Notification by a Midwife of her engagement to attend a confinement," issued by the Town Council of St. Helen's.

It was also agreed to thank the Under Secretary of State for the Home Department for his letter with regard to the conditions under which a person of foreign origin is deemed to be a natural born British subject.

ADMISSION TO EXAMINATION.

The Secretary reported that in conformity with the Board's Resolution of July 25th, and the letter of the Chief Constable of Liverpool with regard to the claim of Miss M. A. Schoapper to be a natural-born British subject, he had admitted Miss Schoapper to the Examination of August 1st, and that she had subsequently passed the Examination and received her Certificate.

The Board refused the application of Sarah Katz, whom it had declined to admit to the examination of August 1st, to be admitted to examination.

It decided that, subject to compliance with the Rules of Training, Marie Louise Berger should be admitted to examination. It also granted the application of Ekaterini Stéfanos Servetopoulos to be admitted to examination.

The application of Johanna Dina Cornelia Wilhelmina Verijk was refused.

The Secretary reported the presentation by two candidates for examination of both certificates, which had been tampered with. The Board adjourned one case, and in the other decided to admit the candidate to examination.

TREATMENT OF EYES OF NEWLY-BORN.

A letter was considered from the Medical Officer of Health for the County of Durham, asking whether the Board would object to the County Council supplying midwives within their jurisdiction with Collosum Argentum, for the treatment of the eyes of newly-born infants. The Board decided to inform the M.O.H. that it had desigedly refrained from recommending in the Rules the use of any specific drug for the treatment of the eyes of newly-born infants. It saw no objection to the course proposed.

REQUEST FOR DECEMBER EXAMINATION.

It was decided to inform the Lady Superintendent of the Devon and Cornwall Training School that her suggestion for the holding of an examination in December this year cannot be entertained.

The Board decided that in view of the altered conditions of the circumstances, as set forth in the letter of the Assistant County Medical Officer of Health for the West Riding of Yorkshire, it was prepared to consider an application for approval to train pupil-midwives, from the Lady Superintendent or Matron (being certified midwives) of S. Faith's Rescue and Maternity Home,

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