

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES-BOARD.

THE MONTHLY MEETING.

The Monthly Meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board's Offices, 1, Queen Anne's Buildings, Dartmouth Street, Westminster, S.W., on November 21st, Sir Francis Champneys in the Chair.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

The Committee reported that a further communication had been received from the Acting Registrar of the General Medical Council with reference to the action of a medical practitioner who had given a certificate to an uncertified woman certifying that she was "quite capable of undertaking the duties of an ordinary midwife."

A letter from the Local Government Board asking the 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 "whenever under Rule 19 (b) she has advised the substitution of artificial feeding for breast feeding." The Board decided to reply that they were prepared to submit such a Rule for the approval of the Privy Council.

The case of a candidate for the Board's examination of November 1st, who had presented a birth certificate which had been tampered with, was further considered, and it was decided not to admit her to any examination prior to that of May 1st, 1919.

The Board decided to reply to an applicant for admission to Examination by a Norwegian subject that the time has not yet arrived for the admission to the Board's Examination of candidates who are neither of British nor of Allied nationality.

A letter was considered from the Secretary of the Four Boroughs Maternity Clinics bringing to the notice of the Board a scheme for the payment of midwives for ante-natal visiting. The Board, in acknowledging the letter, expressed the fear that any scheme by which additional payment was made to midwives for bringing patients to a Clinic could hardly fail to be utilized for the notification of pregnancy, and therefore to prevent early engagement of midwives. It was strongly in favour, however, of promoting the co-operation of midwives in ante-natal and maternity care.

A letter was received from the Secretary of the National Poor Law Officers' Association asking the Board to amend Rule C. 1 (2) (b) by deleting the words "and maintaining a Resident Physician or House Surgeon and a Matron or Superintendent Nurse." The Board replied that it was not prepared to amend the rule in the sense suggested.

Permission was given to a nurse on the staff of the Notts Nursing Federation about to undergo a course of midwifery training to count three of the

four months' training she had received at the Jessop Hospital, Sheffield, as part of the qualifying period of six months required to admit her to the Board's Examination.

A similar privilege was granted to an applicant who in 1915 underwent a course of three months' training as a Maternity Nurse at the Clapham Maternity Hospital, and now proposes to take a course of midwifery training under an approved midwife at Paget House, Loughborough Park.

A letter was received from the County Medical Officer of Health for Derbyshire, asking that a pupil who had undergone a portion of her training at the Birmingham Maternity Hospital might be allowed to complete it with the Royal Derby and Derbyshire Nursing Association. The Board decided to reply that, having regard to the refusal of the Matron of the Birmingham Maternity Hospital to sign on behalf of the applicant the certificates of training required by the Rules, it had no power to facilitate her admission to the Examination.

APPLICATIONS.

For Appointment as Examiner.—Dr. Harold Clifford and Dr. William Fletcher were added to the list of examiners for the Manchester and Liverpool Centres.

For Removal from the Roll.—The applications of sixteen certified midwives for removal from the Roll were granted.

For Approval as Lecturer.—Dr. Mabel Eliza May was approved as a lecturer, and Dr. Thomas Gibson *pro tem*.

For Approval as Teacher.—The following certified midwives were approved as teachers:—Annie Brownlie Edington (No. 28617), Helena Gertrude Summerbell (No. 37367), Gertrude Smith (No. 37070), and Martha Hannah L. Wilson (No. 32557).

REPORT.

It was agreed that the Report submitted by the Secretary on the work of the Board for the year ended March 31st, 1918, be approved and adopted, and forwarded to the Privy Council.

THE MIDWIVES BILL.

The Secretary reported that the Midwives Bill had passed both Houses of Parliament, and had probably at the time he was speaking received the Royal Assent in the words "Le Roi le veut." The Act would come into force on January 1st, 1919.

The Chairman reported that he had received and replied to a telegram of congratulation from Sir Halliday Croom, Chairman, Central Midwives Board for Scotland, on the passing of the Midwives Bill, 1918, facilitating reciprocal arrangements between the three kingdoms.

NOVEMBER EXAMINATION.

At the Examination of the Central Midwives Board held in London and the Provinces on November 1st, 450 candidates were examined and 346 passed. The percentage of failures was 23.1.

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