

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

MONTHLY MEETING.

The monthly meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the offices, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, S.W., on February 20th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

Mrs. Latter (representative of the Royal British Nurses' Association on the Board) protested that her protest in January against the proposal to deprive the Association of representation on the Board had not been entered on the minutes of the Board.

A letter was received from the Clerk of the Council, enclosing a copy of a scale of charges, formulated under Section 4 of the Midwives Act, 1918, for the expenses incurred by members of the Board in attending meetings, based on the Treasury Regulations. It was agreed that these be adopted as recommended by the Clerk of the Council.

A letter was received from the County Medical Officer of Health for Cheshire, enquiring whether Nurse Midwives in attendance on, or expecting to be called to, cases of confinement should be permitted to attend cases of influenza, and, if so, under what conditions.

The Board decided to inform the County Medical Officer of Health for Cheshire, that, in the view of the Board, his attitude with regard to cases of influenza attended by midwives, who also attend maternity cases as detailed in his letter of December 27th, 1918, was correct, and strictly in accordance with the Rule of the Board E 6.

The request of two midwives whose certificates had been cancelled on their own applications, for copies of the cancelled certificates were granted under the special circumstances of the cases.

A letter was received from the Medical Officer of Health for the City of Chester, enquiring whether the Board considered that a midwife was entitled to give hypodermic injections in the absence of any direction to do so by a registered medical practitioner. It was resolved that the reply drafted by the Chairman be approved and forwarded to the M.O.H for Chester. (The rule of the Board in relation to the administration of drugs by midwives is that "A midwife must note in her Register of Cases each occasion on which she is under the necessity of administering in any way any drug other than a simple aperient, the name and dose of the drug and the time and cause of its administration."—Rule 19.)

The Secretary was directed to acknowledge a Petition from the Midwives' Institute praying the Board to represent to the Privy Council under Section 1 (c) of the Midwives Act, 1918, that it is expedient to modify the Constitution of the Board by conferring on the Institute power to appoint a certified midwife as one of its representatives on the Board.

REMOVAL OF NAMES.

The names of fourteen midwives were removed from the Roll, and their certificates cancelled on their own request.

APPLICATIONS GRANTED.

For approval as Training School.—The Dufferin Victoria Hospital, Calcutta.

For approval as Teacher.—Midwives Elizabeth Alice Bosworth (No. 24747), Ellen Chippindale, (No. 26387), Ellen Eliza Mailing (No. 5761), Mabel Winifred Mellor (No. 28398).

MIDWIVES' ROLL.

The Board decided, having regard to the special circumstances of the case, and particularly to the great expense involved in printing the Midwives' Roll at the present time, that the Roll for 1919 be not printed; but that the Provisional Roll for 1919 be printed as usual.

RECIPROCITY WITH SCOTTISH C.M.B.

The names of eight midwives have been placed on the Roll by reason of their having passed the examination of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The "Report on the work of the Central Midwives Board for the year ended March 31st, 1918," just issued, shows that there were on the Midwives Roll at that date the names of 42,949 women, a nett increase of 1,204. The trained midwives number 33,548, and the untrained 9,401. The percentage of trained midwives who practise as such is relatively small, about 20.5 per cent. of the trained women on the Roll. Of the untrained 48.4 per cent. are in practice, though frequently to a small extent only.

The total number of practising midwives—distinguished by a dagger prefixed to the name in the Roll—is 11,440, of whom 6,896, or 60.2 per cent., are trained, and 4,553, or 39 per cent., untrained.

The levies on the Local Supervising authorities to meet the deficiency in the Board's revenue for 1917 amounted to £3,257 7s. 7d. The question of the inspection of training schools conducted by midwives has occupied the attention of the Board, and it resolved that the Institutions and Homes under the management of approved midwives, in London and the neighbourhood, should be dealt with. They appointed a teacher of pupil midwives of long experience as Inspector.

Any Nurse or Midwife or member of the public who is a clever cook may win 5s. by sending to "Cookery Book," "Glaxo," 155-157, Great Portland Street, W. 1, a new and original recipe. The firm are compiling a Cookery Book, and want it to contain new and original recipes. For details see page iv in our advertisement columns.

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