

and stating that the Lords of the Council propos⁶ to adopt the suggestion. The suggested amendment was approved, the second part of the Note therefore, will run as follows:—

“In nearly all districts Health Visitors and Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are provided for the assistance of ‘mother and child.’”

A letter was received from the Clerk of the Cheshire County Council (a) calling attention to the fact that Section 14 of the Midwives' Act, 1918, does not enable Local Supervising Authorities to pay for medical assistance summoned at the request of an uncertified woman, and (b) asking whether the Board is prepared to construe Section 8 of the Midwives' Act, 1918, retrospectively, so as to enable the Board to prohibit, where deemed necessary, a woman whose name has been removed from the Roll prior to January 1, 1919, from attending women in childbirth.

The Board decided to reply (a) that it has no power to deal with uncertified women, and (b) (1) That no power conferred by an Act of Parliament can be construed retrospectively unless authority to this effect is conferred by the Act itself; (2) That the powers and duties of the Board extend to certified midwives only and that the Board has no authority to impose an obligation on a woman who is no longer certified.

A letter was received from a certified midwife complaining of the difficulty of making a living owing to the action of a District Health Visitor in the employment of a Local Authority, who is also a certified midwife, carrying on private practice in midwifery at a rate lower than the standard rate of pay for midwifery in that district.

The Board decided to express regret that it had no power to prevent a midwife holding a salaried post from carrying on a private practice in midwifery under the conditions stated.

APPLICATIONS.

For Certification Under Section 10 of the Midwives Act, 1918.—Applications from two midwives were considered and one accepted and the other refused.

For Voluntary Removal of Name from the Roll.—Fourteen applications were considered, and the Secretary directed to remove the names from the Roll of Midwives and to cancel the certificates.

REVISION OF LISTS.

The List of Examiners for the year commencing April 1st, 1919, as revised, was approved, also the List of Institutions at which midwives may be trained, and the lists of Registered Medical Practitioners, and of Certified Midwives approved as Teachers.

The adjourned application of Midwife Alice Smith (No. 25187) for approval as a teacher was granted, also the application of Midwife Dorothy Mary Dodd (No. 43693).

RECIPROCITY WITH SCOTTISH BOARD.

The Secretary reported that the names of the Midwife Janet Hornsby and Midwife Jean Irving McLauchlan had been placed on the Roll by reason

of having passed the Examination of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland.

The meeting then terminated.

PENAL CASES.

A special meeting of the Central Midwives Board for the hearing of charges against certified midwives, was held at the offices of the Board, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, on the morning of Thursday, March 20th, with the following results:—

Struck off the Roll and Certificate Cancelled.—Midwife Sarah Arnold (No. 20101) and Midwife Edith Annie Simmons (No. 47796, C.M.B. Examination).

Sentence postponed.—In the case of Midwife Mary Agnes Siminster (No. 20414) the Board decided to ask for a report of the midwife's conduct and practice in three and six months' time, before passing sentence.

Serious charges against Midwife Arnold were that she neglected to take and record the pulse and temperature of the patient at each visit, and falsely entered records of these for each day's attendance, when in fact neither had been taken. No confidence could be placed in a midwife, who is entrusted with grave responsibilities, who had proved so unconscientious.

The charge against Midwife Simmons was that at a Court of Summary Jurisdiction at Godalming, she was convicted of stealing two nightdresses, two sardine tins and other articles, and ordered to pay the sum of £3.

Cases adjourned for Judgment on report of Local Supervising Authority.—The Board decided that Midwife Mary Glarvy (No. 30975) would be struck off the Roll unless there was a satisfactory undertaking that the pulse and temperature would be taken satisfactorily by someone else. In connection with the report received on another midwife, the Board passed a resolution declaring that in all cases in which sentence is postponed for reports from the Local Supervising Authority, the substance of any unfavourable report be communicated to the accused, and that she be given an opportunity of replying before her name is removed from the Roll.

This course was adopted in the case of another midwife, concerning whom an unsatisfactory interim report had been received.

CHILD BUNDLES.

Alderman Bush, chairman of the Bath Education Committee, speaking at Bath, illustrated by a remarkable statement the menace to child life caused by mothers having to go to work.

“I have a cousin, a headmistress of an infants' school in one of the poorest districts of London,” he said, “who told me it is no uncommon thing for mothers to sew clothes on a child in the early autumn and keep them sewn on until spring.”

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)