

# The Midwife.

## THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

A meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board Room, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, on Thursday, May 22nd. Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

### REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was received from the British Medical Association with reference to fees to be tendered by the Board to medical practitioners, asked to give oral evidence in penal cases. Also a letter from a certified midwife, complaining of the training in midwifery which she received at an Institution, on which she passed the Board examination in August, 1918. The Board decided to forward the correspondence to the Local Government Board, and to point out that if the facts were as alleged, the institution concerned could not be deemed to be a suitable training school for pupil midwives.

A letter was received from Marcelle Julia Atkinson, of Tresco, Scilly, asking that she might be granted the Board's certificate by reason of holding a "Diplome de Sage Femme de rère Classe." It was agreed that the applicant should be admitted to examination on complying with the requirements of the Board other than those relating to training.

It was decided to grant admission to the Midwives Roll on payment of the fee of £1 is. to applicants holding certificates from St. Thomas's Hospital, and the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, the Coombe Hospital, the National Maternity Hospital, Dublin, and the Cork Lying-in Hospital. Three applicants, holding the certificate of the Central Midwives Board for Ireland, obtained in virtue of the possession of the certificate of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin, were refused admission to the Roll, the Board not being satisfied on the evidence before it that the standard of training and examination was equivalent to the standard adopted by the Board.

### RESIGNATION OF EXAMINERS.

The resignations of Dr. Henry Russell Andrews, F.R.C.P., and Dr. Herbert Williamson, F.R.C.P., as examiners to the Board were received and the examiners thanked for their efficient services.

### APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINERS.

The following medical practitioners were appointed examiners at the London Centre:—

James Montagu Wyatt, M.B., Lond., F.R.C.S. (St. Thomas's).

Donald Whatley Roy, M.B., Camb., F.R.C.S. (St. George's).

Trevor Berwin Davies, M.D., Lond, M.R.C.P. (University College Hospital).

William Gilliatt, M.D., Lond., F.R.C.S. (Middlesex).

### APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL.

As Lecturer: Mr. Archibald F. G. Spinks, L.R.C.P. & S.

As Teacher: Midwife Harriett Louisa Dolton (No. 32,960); Midwife Susan M. Chapman (No. 35,205). The applications were granted.

## QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITAL.

Princess Arthur of Connaught is attending the Annual Meeting of Queen Charlotte's Hospital Ladies' Association (of which she is Patron) at the Hospital, Marylebone Road, N.W., on Thursday, June 5th, at 3 p.m. A "Pound Day" is being held the same day.

A pound, or more, of any of the following will be gratefully received at the Hospital, or at the District Nurses' Homes at 13, Harcourt Street, Marylebone; 40, Princess Road, Kilburn; 176, Ladbroke Grove, W., between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m., on Thursday June 5th, 1919:—A £1 note, a pound in silver, a pound of any of the following articles:—Tea, coffee, sugar, rice, tapioca, semolina, macaroni, cornflour, flour, rolled oats, split peas, lentils, haricot beans, maize meal, pearl barley, raisins, currants, sultanas, jam, marmalade, golden syrup, honey, eggs, soap, soda, potatoes. As this journal is published in London on Thursday morning we hope that some of our readers will see this notice and make their gifts, but we think they would be acceptable at any time.

## MIDWIVES AND CERTIFICATES OF STILLBIRTH.

In the House of Commons on May 22nd Mr. Gilbert asked the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention had been drawn to an inquest held recently on a stillborn child by the Southwark Coroner, when certain malpractices were disclosed over the burial certificate given by the midwife; and whether in view of these disclosures he proposes to recommend an alteration of the law in order to prevent the continuance of the practice of allowing midwives to give certificates for burial purposes?

Major Astor replied that the answer to the first part of the question was in the affirmative. The President of the Local Government Board would consider the advisability of altering the law.

It must be remembered that the Central Midwives Board has disciplinary powers over certified midwives, and in the event of a *prima facie* case of malpractice being proved cites a midwife to appear before it, and deals with the accused if proved guilty. It is of the highest importance that the midwives on the Roll should be skilful and trustworthy, and it is the aim of the Central Midwives Board to ensure that they shall be. In this event a midwife is quite competent to certify that a child is stillborn, and the right course to pursue would seem to be to leave the Board to exercise discipline and administer justice.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)