

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

The first monthly meeting of the Central Midwives' Board after the recess was held at the Offices, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, S.W. 1, on Thursday, October 9th. Sir Francis Champneys was in the chair.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was received from the Ministry of Health, stating—

(a) That the Ministry has taken steps to lay the representation as to the modification of the Constitution of the Central Midwives' Board before both Houses of Parliament.

(b) That the Ministry approves the proposal of the Board to grant War Bonuses to its Secretary and Assistant Secretary.

(c) That the Ministry sanctions the appointment of Mr. H. G. Westley, as Secretary, on the terms of the Board's Resolution of July 24th.

A letter was received from the Clerk of the London County Council, enclosing for the Board's approval a draft of a letter which the County Council proposes to send to midwives practising in the County of London, on the subject of midwives acting in co-operation with medical practitioners, and the draft approved.

A letter was received from the Minister of Health, drawing the Board's attention to the number of deaths which have recently taken place at a Nursing Home conducted by a certified midwife, and to the conditions under which she trains her pupils.

It was resolved to inform the Minister of Health that (1) The Board will consider any information which may be brought before it concerning the deaths of the children referred to, provided that such deaths occurred as a result of breaches of the Rules; and (2) The Board will take into consideration the condition of the premises in question at which pupils are trained, and take any action in its power.

APPLICATIONS.

Applications were received from twenty midwives to be certified by the Board by reason of holding the Certificate of the Central Midwives' Board of Ireland or Scotland, and their applications were granted. The Secretary further reported that, in conformity with the Board's Resolution of July 25th, the names of eight Scottish Midwives had been placed on the Roll.

The applications of eighteen midwives for removal from the Roll were granted.

RESIGNATION.

The resignation of Dr. Jane Holland Turnbull as an Examiner at the London Centre was received and it was agreed that the Board's thanks be given to her for her efficient services.

Dr. Gerald Graham Alderson, M.B., F.R.C.S., was appointed an Examiner, and Dr. John Ellison an additional Examiner at the London Centre.

APPROVAL AS LECTURER.

The following medical practitioners were approved as lecturers:—Dr. William Philip Elford, Dr. Mary Evelyn Howie, Dr. David McAskie, Dr. Margaret Kay Mitchell.

The following certified midwives were approved as teachers:—Midwives Rosina Matilda Blundell (No. 37440), Margaret Edith Green (No. 48766), Jane Heaton (No. 22684) Charlotte Stephenson (No. 8297).

THE NEXT MEETING.

The Chairman stated that the next meeting of the Board would be held on Wednesday, November 12th, at 2.30 p.m., and the Special Meeting to consider Penal Cases on Thursday, November 13th, at 10.30 a.m.

THE L.C.C. AND THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

The Midwives Act Committee of the London County Council have reported to the London County Council that they are strongly of opinion that in connection with the proposed reconstitution of the Central Midwives Board the opportunity should be taken to press for representation of the Council upon the Board.

The ground upon which the Committee base their recommendation is that under the provisions of Section 2 of the Midwives Act, 1918, any deficiency in the accounts of the Central Midwives Board is apportioned between the Councils of the several counties and county boroughs in proportion to the population of the areas of the respective authorities, and that upon this basis the Council is called upon to bear over 12 per cent. of the adverse balance of the Board, so that the financial aspect of the Board's transactions is a matter of concern to the Council.

The Committee also state that as regards the practice of midwifery it may be pointed out that the Council has had great experience in matters arising under the Midwives Acts, having regard to the number of midwives in London. The Association of County Councils nominate a member of the Board, but the Council is not a member of the Association nor of any association which will nominate members upon the Board. The Committee recommend:—

"That representation be made to the Minister of Health that in connection with the proposed reconstitution of the Central Midwives Board, representation on the Board should be allocated to the Council."

We are of opinion that a more statesmanlike recommendation would be that the fees paid by midwives should be fixed at a sum which will cover the expenses of the Central Midwives Board.

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