

## The Midwife.

### CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

The monthly meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the offices, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Dartmouth Street, S.W. Professor Briggs was in the chair.

#### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was received from the Secretary of the Medical Board of the Maternity Hospital, Birmingham, asking the Board to consider the advisability of (1) holding six examinations in Birmingham yearly, (2) of increasing the length of training of pupil midwives at that hospital without nursing experience to eight months, and (3) in the event of the Board not deeming these proposals desirable, asking that a deputation might be received.

The Board decided not to accede to (1) and (3), and to point out that there is nothing to prevent the Birmingham Maternity Hospital from increasing the length of training of its pupil midwives if it so desires.

In respect to a question from the M.O.H. for Nottingham with regard to Miss Annie Jones, an approved trainer of pupil midwives being allowed also to be superintendent of a General Nursing Home, the Board decided to reply that it saw no objection so long as Miss Jones discharged her duties as a trainer efficiently.

A letter was received from the Medical Superintendent of the Kensington Union Infirmary stating that he was proposing to treat cases of pregnant women suffering from Venereal Disease in the Infirmary in a separate block, and with a separate staff of nurses, and asking the Board's views on the matter.

The Board decided to reply that it saw no objection to the proposal, provided the conditions mentioned in the letter were strictly observed, and that pupils should be trained chiefly on non-venereal cases.

The Board decided to accede to a request from THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for an increase in the sum paid for their advertisements, in consequence of the great rise in the cost of printing and paper.

A letter was received from the Hon. Organising Secretary of the National Union of Trained Nurses, submitting copy of a Resolution passed by its Executive Committee on the question of the constitution of the Central Midwives' Board.

A letter was received from the Ministry of Health concerning complaints as to the training of midwives at a Union Infirmary, stating there was a distinct improvement in the conditions at that Infirmary.

It was decided to thank the Ministry of Health for the steps they had taken in the matter.

A letter was received from the Secretary of the Midwives Institute concerning the circumstances of the prosecution of a midwife for not notifying

the Local Sanitary Authority in an alleged case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and asking the Board to make representations to the Ministry of Health with a view to getting the said Article repealed and brought into line with the rules of the Board.

It was decided to take the course suggested.

A letter was received from Mr. C. E. L. Lyle, M.P., Chairman of Queen Mary's Hospital for the East End, asking the Board to reconsider the applications of a member of the nursing and of the medical staff as a trainer of pupil midwives, and lecturer at the hospital respectively. It was decided that Mr. Lyle be informed that two members of the Board will visit the hospital at a time to be agreed, and will report to the Board at its next meeting. A similar reply was agreed upon in another case.

A letter was received and considered from Dr. Fothergill complaining of the instruction given to pupil midwives in connection with cases of ante-partum hemorrhage, and suggesting that the Board should instruct teachers not to teach midwives to do things on which medical opinion is divided. It was decided to thank Dr. Fothergill for his letter, and to point out that the examiners held in their hands the character of the teaching.

The Chairman submitted the following draft setting forth the Board's views with regard to applications from Institutions contemplating the training of pupil midwives.

#### NOTICE TO INSTITUTIONS.

Any Institution which contemplates training pupil midwives for the certificate of the Central Midwives Board, should communicate its intentions *before* it invites or receives pupils.

If it fails to do so, and trains pupils, it renders itself liable to difficulties with pupils so accepted, in the event of the refusal of recognition by the Board.

If it notifies to the Board its intention of training the Board may (if it thinks all the arrangements promise well) advise the Institution to commence or to continue training, and to re-apply at a later date.

When this second application is made, the Board may (if it is satisfied as to the training) recognise the training carried on since the commencement.

The draft as submitted by the Chairman was approved.

The Shoreditch Council have purchased a site for the Central Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, towards which the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust are giving £25,000.

Rathdrum Guardians have increased the salaries of eight dispensary midwives from £20 and £25 to a flat rate of £50 each.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)