

# The Midwife.

## EVENT OF THE YEAR.

The event of the year in the Midwifery World has been the transference of the Central Midwives Board from the jurisdiction of the Privy Council to that of the Ministry of Health.

## CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, on Thursday, December 18th, Sir Francis Champneys in the chair.

### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

Dr. R. P. Ranken Lyle wrote on behalf of the Newcastle Maternity Hospital stating that owing to the great increase of students in Newcastle, and nurses at the Maternity Hospital, there is great difficulty in finding cases for all, and asking if the Board will consent to a case counting for a probationer midwife as well as for a medical student, and further stating that the Medical Officer of Health for Newcastle would greatly approve of this concession being granted.

The Board decided to inform Dr. Ranken Lyle that it cannot see its way to the alteration which he suggests, as it would lower the standard of the training of midwives, and that the Board has no duties with regard to the training of medical students.

Letters were received from the Superintendent of the West Riding Nursing Association and the Matron of the Ladies' Benevolent Institution, Chester, complaining of the treatment of candidates from those institutions who attended the Board's Examinations at Manchester in November last, and drawing attention to the views of the Examiners at that Centre with regard to the treatment of ante-partum hæmorrhage.

A letter was also received, on the same subject, from the approved Teachers' Sub-Committee of the Midwives' Institute.

It was resolved that every examiner be reminded that the correctness of any particular treatment cannot be determined by the private opinion of each examiner, but that the teaching of responsible authorities must be accepted.

A letter was received from the Secretary of the Central Midwives' Board for Ireland, suggesting an amendment of the Form of having attended a course of lectures (Rule C. 1 (1) (c) Form IV in Schedule to Rules) with a view to allowing a course of twenty lectures to be delivered by more than one lecturer if necessary.

It was decided to reply that the Board has always considered that it is best that the lectures should be delivered by one person. Its practice has been to accept the signature of more than one

person in exceptional cases, and has found this arrangement to work satisfactorily.

The Board received a letter from Mr. H. O. Stutchbury, of the Ministry of Health, suggesting a conference between himself, Dr. Janet Campbell, Members of the Board, and representatives of the Board of Education on the question of approval as training centres of Maternity Homes established under schemes of the Ministry of Health.

The Chairman, Lady Mabelle Egerton, Dr. Fairbairn, Miss Paget, and Mr. Sangster were appointed to be the Board's representatives at such conference.

### BOARD MEETINGS FOR 1920.

The dates of the ordinary Board Meetings for 1920 were fixed as follows:—January 22nd, February 19th, March 18th, April 22nd, May 20th, June 17th, July 22nd, October 14th, November 18th, December 16th.

### APPLICATIONS.

Applications were considered from twelve midwives holding certificates accepted by the Central Midwives' Board for Ireland, and the Central Midwives Board for Scotland, to be certified by the Board under Section 10 of the Midwives' Act, 1918, and it was decided that a certificate be granted to each of them on payment of the fee of one guinea.

Applications from four midwives for voluntary removal from the Roll were considered and accepted.

### SMITH v. CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

The Chairman gave notice of motion for rescission of resolution removing Lucy Smith from the Roll. (Rule A. 12.)

## TO MY LITTLE SON.

We were so very intimate, we two,  
Even before I knew  
The outline of the little face I love,  
Or bent above  
The small, sweet body made so strong and fair;  
For we had learned to share  
The silences that are more near than speech  
Before your cry could reach  
My listening heart, or I could see  
The miracle made manifest to me.

O little son,  
Most glad, most radiant one,  
Too soon, too soon, the hour must be cried  
That draws you from my side!  
In life's exultant hands is lifted up  
This newly moulded cup  
The tangled vineyard of the world demands  
Your toiling hands.  
Look deep, and in all women that you meet  
Your searching gaze will greet  
This mother of the child that used to be;  
Beholding women, oh, remember me!

—Pauline Florence Brower.