

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

The Monthly Meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, on Thursday, October 14th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

On the Report of the Standing Committee :

A letter was considered from the Secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd., asking that the affiliated certificates as to the general training of nurses recognised by the Council of the College may be accepted by the Board in the case of registered members of the College, as qualifications for admission to the Board's Examinations after undergoing a four months' course of midwifery training.

The Board decided to refer the letter to the Approvals Sub-Committee for consideration and report.

We hope that the Central Midwives Board, in considering this letter, will bear in mind that nurses, like midwives, are now to be a State Registered profession, and that the only qualification in nursing which should be recognised, and which is of legal value, is the certificate to be issued by the General Nursing Council. It would be a fundamental error for one State Body to ignore the standard defined by another, and to accept standards adopted by bodies not authorised by Parliament to undertake this duty. In so doing the Central Midwives Board would, in fact, assume the right to define nursing standards, of which the General Nursing Council is the only Statutory Authority.

Consideration of the nurses to be admitted to the Nurses' Register does not complicate the question, because the Central Midwives Board only extends the privilege of the shorter period of training (four months) (1) to women who produce a certificate of three years' general training, or are enrolled as Queen's Nurses. The letter of the Secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd., is also misleading, as registration by a Company merely implies that the regulations of the Companies Acts (section 25 of the Act of 1862) have been complied with. Under this section every company is required to keep a Register of its members.

INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES IN PRIVATE PRACTICE.

A letter was considered from the Secretary of the Ministry of Health suggesting that the Ministry might be of some assistance to the Board in connection with the inspection of midwives in private practice who are approved by the Board for the purpose of training pupils, and stating that the Ministry would be prepared to arrange for such inspection on behalf of the Board by the Ministry's Women Medical Officers and Nurse Inspectors.

It was agreed to inform the Secretary of the Ministry of Health that the Board thinks that it

would be advantageous if the Ministry of Health would, at the request of the Board, send reports by one of its Inspectors to the Central Midwives Board. Such reports might concern midwives or institutions already approved or seeking approval. The Board would be glad if the name of the Inspector concerned could be given, and that it should be understood that the Board was not necessarily bound by the recommendation of the Inspector.

VALUABLE FACILITIES OFFERED BY M.A.B.

A letter was considered from the Honorary Secretary of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom on the question of instruction, and the diagnosing and treatment, of Ophthalmia Neonatorum forming part of the curriculum for medical students and midwives, and on the offer of facilities for such instruction made by the Metropolitan Asylums Board.

It was agreed that the Honorary Secretary of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom be thanked for his letter and be informed that the Board expresses the hope that advantage will be taken of the facilities offered by the Metropolitan Asylums Board for the holding of classes in connection with the treatment of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

THE BOARD'S RULES.

A letter from the Secretary of the Ministry of Health suggesting alterations in Rule E. 20 to 23 of the Board's Rules in order that such Rules might be brought more into conformity with Section 14 of the Midwives Act 1918 was further considered.

It was agreed that the Chairman and Secretary be asked to discuss the question with Sir George Newman and to report to the next meeting of the Board.

(To be concluded.)

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD FOR IRELAND.

EXAMINATION PAPER, OCTOBER 12th.

1. Describe in detail how you would manage the second stage of a Breech Presentation.
2. Under what circumstances must a midwife notify the Local Supervising Authority? How is this to be done?
3. Describe the character of the Lochia within the first fortnight after delivery. How may it vary from the normal?
4. What is Hydramnios? How would you recognise same? What is likely to occur, and the treatment you would adopt?
5. What are the signs and symptoms of hæmorrhage?
6. What is ante-partum hæmorrhage? The course and the treatment or recommendations you would advise?

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