

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

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FALSIFICATION OF BIRTH CERTIFICATES.

At the meeting of the Central Midwives Board on Oct. 14th the Secretary reported the falsification of four birth certificates which had been tampered with. It was decided not to admit two of the candidates to any examination prior to that of February, 1921, one prior to April, 1921, and that one be admitted to the examination of November, 1920. In a fifth case the Secretary reported the presentation of a typewritten copy of a birth certificate, instead of the birth certificate, and that such copy was incorrect, and was so made by the candidate with the intention of deceiving the Board. The candidate was excluded from examination till April, 1921.

RECIPROCAL TRAINING.

Application to be certified by the Board (a) from six midwives holding the certificates of the Central Midwives Boards for Scotland or Ireland, obtained otherwise than by examination and (b) from ten midwives who had passed the examination of the Central Midwives Board for Ireland, were granted, the standard of training being equivalent to the standard adopted by the Board, subject to the payment of the fee of one guinea.

The Secretary reported that in conformity with the instructions of the Board he had placed on the Roll the names of ten women holding a certificate of having passed the examination of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland.

THE MIDWIVES' ROLL, 1920.

It was agreed that in consequence of the great increase in the cost of printing the Midwives Roll, 1920, the price be two guineas.

PENAL CASES.

At a Special Meeting of the Central Midwives Board on Thursday, October 14th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding, charges alleged against three midwives were heard with the following results:—

Struck off the Roll and Certificate Cancelled.—Sarah Ann Porter (No. 2587).

Report Asked for from Local Supervising Authority in Three and Six Months' Time.—Harriet Elizabeth Amundsen (No. 7942).

In the third case no action was taken.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD FOR IRELAND.

The Central Midwives Board for Ireland held a meeting at the offices of the Minister of Health, 33, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, on the 19th instant, Dr. E. Coey Bigger in the chair.

The Chairman referred in feeling terms to the death since their previous meeting of Sir J. W.

Byers of Belfast. He proposed a resolution recording the Board's sense of the great loss it had sustained thereby, and conveying its deepest sympathy with Lady Byers, which was unanimously adopted in silence, all the members standing.

Dr. E. Coey Bigger and Sir A. J. Horne were unanimously re-elected as Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively for the coming year.

The Secretary reported that at the first examination held by the Board in July last in Dublin and Cork simultaneously 73 candidates attended, of whom 62 passed. At the second examination held on the 12th ult. in Dublin and Belfast 51 candidates attended of whom 48 passed. The answering at both examinations was very good. The next examination will be held on February 8th, 1921.

A deputation from the Irish Medical Association waited on the Board in reference to the inadequacy of the fees fixed by the Local Government Board under Section 22 of the Midwives (I) Act 1918 for professional assistance to Midwives in cases of emergency. The Board gave a sympathetic hearing to the views of the deputation and promised to communicate with the Local Government Board on the subject.

TEACHERS' INSTRUCTION COURSE.

A Teachers' Instruction Class, open to all Midwives teaching midwifery to pupils, is being organised at the Midwives Institute, 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.2, from November 22nd-27th inclusive. The Inaugural Meeting, on "The Aims of the Course," will be held at 2 p.m., on Monday, November 22nd, when the chair will be taken by Miss A. C. Gibson, Chairman of the Institute, and the speakers will be Sir Francis Champneys, Chairman of the Central Midwives Board; Dr. Menzies, Medical Officer, L.C.C.; and Dr. Macrory, Senior Inspector of Midwives, L.S.A.

Full information as to the Course may be obtained from Miss M. Olive Haydon, Hon. Secretary at the Midwives Institute. The fee for the Course for members of the Institute or affiliated Associations, is 10s.; non-members, 1 guinea. Certain of the lectures may be attended by intending teachers or Inspectors of Midwives. Tickets, 2s each.

The need of special instruction for those midwives who undertake the responsible duty of teaching pupils has long been urgent, and, indeed, we should like to see an examination for teachers established by the Central Midwives Board, so that before it approves certified midwives as teachers it may satisfy itself of their capacity for this most important function.

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