

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

At the examination of the Central Midwives Board, held in London and the Provinces on November 2nd, 913 candidates were examined, and 739 passed the examiners. The percentage of failures was 18.9.

The monthly meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board Room, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, S.W., on November 18th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

A letter was considered from Mr. H. O. Stutchbury, of the Ministry of Health, asking if the Board agreed with the view that the term of office of the members of the Board who are to be added as a result of the Board's recent representation should be three years in each case.

It was decided to reply that in the opinion of the Board the term of office of these members of the Board should be one year in each case.

Dr. J. S. Fairbairn and the Secretary were nominated as representatives to give evidence as to the training of midwives in respect of the prevention of ophthalmia neonatorum before the Committee on the Causes and Prevention of Blindness. It was also suggested that Dr. Pilliet be invited to attend.

A letter was considered from Dr. W. E. Fothergill, of Manchester, stating that the examiners at the recent examination of the Board held at Manchester, completely and unanimously objected to the third question in the Paper which requested from the midwife a diagnosis of syphilis.

It was agreed that Dr. W. E. Fothergill be referred to Rule C.5 (m).

In respect of a letter from the Secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd., it was resolved "that the Board be of opinion that in the case of a woman who produces an affiliated certificate recognised at the present time by the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., a period of not less than four months' midwifery training shall be substituted for the period of six months' midwifery training, required by Rule C.1. (1) p. 10 of the Board's Rules, and that regard should be had to this resolution when the rules of the Board are revised."

We presume that when the State Register of Nurses is established that will be the only evidence of training recognised by the Central Midwives Board. The General Nursing Council will certainly not recognise as midwives any whose names are not found on the Midwives Roll in one of the three kingdoms.

The Board agreed to enter on the Midwives Roll the names of four women holding the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board for Ireland, or the Central Midwives Board for Scotland

obtained otherwise than by examination, and to grant them a certificate; the standard of training undergone by them at their respective hospitals, and the examinations at those hospitals passed by them, and accepted by the Central Midwives Board for Ireland, or the Central Midwives Board for Scotland, as the case may be, being equivalent to the standard adopted by the Board, on payment of the fee of one guinea in accordance with the terms of the Midwives Act, 1918, Section 10.

The Secretary reported that in conformity with the Board's Resolution of July 25th, 1918, and October 14th, 1920, he had placed on the Roll the names of 15 women holding a certificate of having passed the Examination of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland or the Central Midwives Board for Ireland as the case may be.

The attention of midwives is directed to alterations in Rule E 20 to 23, and to the approval of new forms in connection with sending for medical help, the use of which is compulsory.

The Board considered the question of the payment of the expenses incurred by officials of the Local Supervising Authorities when attending the hearing of penal cases, and resolved that the principle of payment by the Board, at their discretion, as from January 1st, 1921, of the expenses of officials or other persons attending as witnesses, on behalf of the prosecution, at the hearing of penal cases, be approved, and that the solicitor be requested to submit a scale of payments to the Board for its consideration.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD FOR SCOTLAND.

EXAMINATION PAPER.

The following is the examination paper set on November 1st:—

1. Describe the mechanism of labour in a breech presentation, and give the management.
2. Describe how you would bring up a child on cow's milk.
3. What helpful information should a nurse get from palpation of the abdomen of a pregnant woman at or near her full time?
4. Define the second stage of labour and mention some of the causes of delay in this stage.
5. State the conditions which may cause delay in the third stage of labour, and describe how these conditions should be dealt with.
6. What is the definition of "a still-born child" according to the Rules of the Central Midwives Board; and what are the directions of the Central Midwives Board with regard to the prevention of inflammation of the eyes in new-born children?

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