

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

MONTHLY MEETING.

The Monthly Meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board Room, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, on December 21st, on the completion of the business of the Finance Committee.

The Secretary presented the Report of the Penal Cases Committee, including the names of those to be cited at the next meeting, which was fixed for January 20th.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was received from Miss Olive Haydon, the Hon. Secretary of the Teachers' Instruction Course Midwives' Institute, stating that the Teachers of Midwifery who attended the recent course of instruction at the Institute had passed Resolutions urging the extension of the period of midwifery training and the advisability of a high qualification for approved teachers.

It was resolved that the Board agrees with the advisability of raising the standard of midwifery training both for pupils and teachers, whenever circumstances render such an advance practicable. Meanwhile, any such voluntary extension of the duration of training would meet with the hearty approval of the Board.

A letter was received from the Secretary of the Ministry of Health approving the alterations to Rules E.20, E. 22 (r) (a) and E. 23, made at the last meeting.

A letter was read from the Medical Officer of Health for Kensington asking if, in the event of the Kensington Council arranging for the nursing of a mother and child (the latter suffering from ophthalmia neonatorum) to be taken over by a midwife specially engaged by the Council for the purpose, the midwife originally engaged would be discharged from all responsibility during the period subsequent to such taking over.

It was resolved that the Medical Officer of Health for Kensington be informed that the Board thinks that an arrangement whereby a nurse specially trained is available for bad cases of ophthalmia neonatorum would be very helpful, but does not think that midwives should be separated either from mothers or children under their care.

A letter was read from the Medical Officer of Health for the City of Worcester asking if it is considered desirable that investigation of the mode of practice of a midwife under Rule E. 25 should be carried out in the case of all midwives or only in those cases where the results of the midwife's work have not seemed satisfactory.

It was agreed to inform the Medical Officer of Health for Worcester of the wording of Rule E. 25 and also to state that this Rule obliges the Local Supervising Authority to secure a proper inspection of the Register, &c., of every midwife,

but leaves the inspection of the residence and mode of practice to the discretion of the Local Supervising Authority.

That it is highly advisable that unnecessary inspection should be avoided, as likely to annoy the patient, to cast doubt on the efficiency of the midwife, and generally to interfere with the working of the Act.

APPLICATIONS.

Applications were granted:

For Approval as Lecturer.—Gervase Charles Wells Cole, Esq., M.B.; William Osborne Greenwood, Esq., M.D.; Laurence Hislop, Esq., M.D. Also those of Ernest Spencer Miller, Esq., M.D., D.P.H., and Dr. Charlotte Annie Shields.

Of Certified Midwives for Approval as Teachers.—Midwives Mary Jane Barrett (No. 8233), Theresa Sophia Brooks (No. 35619), Florence Louisa Cross (No. 9752), and subject to certain conditions Midwife Alice Frances Wells (No. 28613).

EXPENSES OF WITNESSES.

The scale of expenses of official and other witnesses attending on behalf of the prosecution at the hearing of penal cases was approved and adopted.

RECIPROCITY.

Applications from four midwives to be certified by the Board by reason of holding the Certificate of the Central Midwives Boards for Ireland and Scotland obtained otherwise than by examination were sanctioned on the recommendation of the Standing Committee, upon their paying the fee of one guinea.

The Secretary reported that in conformity with the Board's Resolutions of July 25th, 1918, he had placed on the Roll the names of three midwives holding a certificate of having passed the examination of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland.

INSTRUCTION FOR TEACHERS.

Dr. Fairbairn presented a Report on the Conference of Teachers which was held at the Midwives' Institute recently.

It was resolved that the Board notes with much pleasure the excellence of the Course of Instruction for Teachers recently held at the Midwives' Institute and thanks Dr. Fairbairn for the report.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Bills and claims amounting to £565 15s. 1d. were passed for payment and as there would then be a deficit the Finance Committee recommended the Board to sanction the borrowing of £2,000 from their bankers over a period of six months at $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 per cent. over the bank rate.

London's memorials provided by the Children's Jewel Fund are to take the form of the endowment of a maternity ward at Queen Mary's Hospital for the East End, and of a scheme for treating infants suffering from malnutrition.