

The Midwife.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

At the meeting of the Central Midwives Board held at the Board Room, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings S.W., on February 17th, letters were received from the following authorities notifying the election of their representatives:—

The Royal College of Physicians.—Sir Francis Champneys, Bart, M.D., F.R.C.P.

The Incorporated Midwives Institute.—Mr. John Shields Fairbairn, M.B., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.

The County Councils Association.—Mr. Leonard Henry West, O.B.E., LL.D.

Among the correspondence was a letter from Dr. Comyns Berkeley stating that all the examiners at the London Centre (with one exception) requested that the Examination fee should be increased.

It was decided that the Board inform Dr. Berkeley that it has given very careful consideration to the request from the majority of its examiners for an increase in examination fees; but having regard to the fees paid by other Examining Bodies for work of a similar nature, and to the fact that the amount of the fees payable by candidates is limited by Statute, regrets that it does not see its way to grant an increase at the present time. Should the Board at some future time be enabled to increase the fees payable by candidates, it will reconsider the question of increasing the fees of its examiners.

A letter was also received from Dr. Nepean Longridge as to the payment of the railway fares of London Examiners living at a distance.

It was decided to reply that for the present railway fares be paid to Drs. Alderson, Hicks and Longridge when they attend the Examination of the Board in London.

A letter was considered from Messrs. Stow, Preston & Lyttelton as to the jurisdiction of a Local Supervising Authority to enquire into the conduct of a midwife when acting as a monthly nurse.

It was agreed that Messrs. Stow, Preston & Lyttelton be informed that the Local Supervising Authority has jurisdiction to consider a charge of misconduct (other than professional misconduct) which may be preferred, if such misconduct tends to unfit the midwife for the discharge of her duties as a midwife, and this jurisdiction is not ousted by the fact that when guilty of such misconduct the midwife was not acting as either a midwife or as a monthly nurse (*Stock v. C.M.B.*). But in the opinion of the Board, the Midwives Acts confer no jurisdiction upon either the Central Midwives Board or the Local Supervising Authorities to investigate charges of malpractice, negligence or professional misconduct preferred against a midwife when acting as a monthly nurse, unless her conduct constitutes a violation of Rule E 6 of the Board's Rules.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD FOR SCOTLAND.

EXAMINATION PAPER.

The following is the paper set by the Central Midwives Board for Scotland at its Examination held on January 1st:—

1. In what ways may infection take place in the parturient and puerperal woman? How can a nurse help to prevent sepsis? What is her duty when it occurs?

2. What may give rise to hæmorrhage during the first three months of pregnancy? Indicate the treatment.

3. At what stage in labour may a full bladder cause difficulty? State fully and in detail how you would deal with this.

4. A woman, about two months pregnant, has a sudden and very violent attack of abdominal pain. She feels faint and passes a little blood. What may be wrong and what should you do?

5. What do you understand by ophthalmia neonatorum? What are its causes and dangers, and what precautions should be taken to prevent its occurrence?

6. Under what conditions occurring in newly-born children is it specified in the Rules of the Central Midwives Board that a midwife must advise a registered medical practitioner be sent for?

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD FOR IRELAND.

The third examination of the Central Midwives Board for Ireland was held simultaneously in Dublin, Belfast and Cork on the 8th February, 1921. Sixty-eight candidates presented themselves, of whom sixty-one passed. The following registered Medical Practitioners acted as Examiners: Reginald J. White, J. Gilmor, Thos. Neill, Alice Barry, T. D. Williamson, J. McLiesh, J. Booth, B. J. O'Brien.

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.

The successful candidates were as follows:—Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, 14; Coombe Hospital, Dublin, 5; National Maternity Hospital, Dublin, 16; Incorporated Maternity Hospital, Belfast, 6; Belfast Workhouse Infirmary, 7; Malone Place Refuge, Belfast, 3; Cork Maternity Hospital, 3; Cork Lying-in Hospital, 1; Military Families' Hospital, Curragh, 1; Birkenhead Maternity Hospital, 1; Limerick Lying-in Hospital, 3.

The ninth annual post-graduate week for midwives will be held at the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, Lambeth, from May 23rd to 27th inclusive. Full particulars and programme will be published later.

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