

The Midwife.

TILL v. THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

On Wednesday and Thursday, May 11th and 12th, the appeal of Mrs. Mary Till, Certified Midwife (No. 34,807), against the decision of the Central Midwives' Board—at a special meeting on December 21st, 1920—to strike her off the Roll of Midwives, and to prohibit her from attending on maternity cases in any capacity, was heard in the King's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice, before the Lord Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Avory, and Mr. Justice Salter. Mr. Terrell, K.C., conducted the case for the appellant, and Mr. Theobald Mathew, K.C., appeared for the Central Midwives' Board.

The grounds on which Mrs. Till based her appeal were: (1) That the Board permitted a serious breach of one of its own rules; (2) That it did not give the midwife copies of the evidence of certain witnesses; (3) That the Board was guilty of judicial indiscretion in not allowing her to cross-examine witnesses, although she was present before the final decision of the Board was announced; (4) In any event there was no evidence under declaration which would justify the sentence.

After hearing the extremely able pleading of the Counsel for the appellant, the Lord Chief Justice, in giving judgment, said that on her own admission the midwife broke Rule 14, and also that, after having been informed of the septic nature of a case she was attending, she had gone to other patients. It was a most dangerous thing to do, and a flagrant breach of Rule 6. No rule with regard to midwives was more important than that. The appeal therefore failed. Mr. Justice Avory and Mr. Justice Salter agreed.

The Court suggested that under the circumstances the Central Midwives' Board might be willing to forego its costs. Its Counsel said that it was feared if the Board were to do so the result might be to encourage appeals to that Court. The Lord Chief Justice, however, suggested that the midwife had been punished enough, and that the Board would be wise to make the concession, which was accordingly done.

ASSOCIATION OF INSPECTORS OF MIDWIVES.

The Annual Conference of Inspectors of Midwives was held from May 2nd to May 7th. It was attended by Inspectors from all parts of England and Wales and proved of great interest to all who attended. The Headquarters of the Conference was the Midwives Institute, 12, Buckingham Street, and lectures were given there by Dr. Ley on "Albuminuria in Pregnancy"; by Professor Kenwood, on "Cottage Sanitation"; and by Dr. Macrory, on "Ethics of Inspection."

Visits were paid to the Infant Welfare Centres of St. Katherine's, Poplar, and North Islington, to many nursery Schools, and—by kind permission of the London County Council—to various Minor Ailment Centres and Cleansing Stations. The members were much interested in the Ante-natal Clinics at the London and St. Thomas' and also by a lecture and demonstration on "Remedial Exercises" by Dr. Mennell, of the latter Hospital. Dr. Price showed the Inspectors round St. Margaret's Hospital for Ophthalmia, in which they were greatly interested, and Dr. Sequira lectured to them at the London on Venereal Disease. Dr. Remington Hobbs also gave a lecture at Kensington Infirmary on "Gonorrhœa in Women." Both these lectures were found most instructive.

A visit was paid to the new and beautifully-equipped Maternity Hospital of the Wandsworth Borough Council. The Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, May 4th.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD FOR SCOTLAND.

The Examination of the Board on 2nd and 3rd May, held simultaneously in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dundee, has concluded with the following results:—

	<i>Appeared.</i>	<i>Candidates Passed.</i>	<i>Rejected.</i>
Edinburgh ..	49	45	4
Glasgow ..	86	79	7
Dundee ..	14	12	2
	<u>149</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>13</u>

CERTIFICATES OF MIDWIFERY NURSES CANCELLED.

At a meeting of the Board for the Hearing of Penal Cases, Dr. J. Haig Ferguson in the Chair, No. 2540, Jane Nugent, 3, Clarks Land, Holytown, Lanarkshire, was cited to answer charges of failure to send for medical assistance in the case of a patient suffering from postpartum hæmorrhage with raised temperature, and with failure to take and record the pulse and temperature of her patients and to keep her Register of Cases.

The Board found the charges to be proved and instructed the Secretary to remove the name of Jane Nugent from the Roll of Midwives and to cancel her Certificate, and further, in terms of Section 8 of the Act, she was prohibited from attending women in child-birth in any other capacity.

At the same diet the case of No. 1773, Mary Nicol Martin, Bryngwilly, Station Road, Kelty, which had been adjourned for judgment on report of the Local Supervising Authority (Fife County), was under consideration. The further report on the methods of practice of Mary Nicol Martin being unfavourable the Secretary was directed to remove the name from the Roll of Midwives and to cancel her Certificate.

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