

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 January 20th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

On the report of the Standing Committee a letter was received from Mr. H. O. Stutchbury of the Ministry of Health, suggesting that a Conference be held with regard to the Rules when they have been revised by the Board, so that the Rules may be submitted to the Ministry of Health in a form which the Ministry can approve at once. This was agreed.

It was decided that a representation be made to the Minister of Health under Section 1 (1) of the Midwives Act 1918, that it is expedient that each of the members of the Board referred to in the Central Midwives Board (Constitution) Order, 1920, and who according to the provisions thereof are to be appointed for a term of three years, shall be appointed annually instead of for a term of three years.

APPLICATIONS.

The following applications were granted:—

For Approval as Lecturer.—Theodore Wright Allen, Esq., M.B.

For Approval as Teacher.—Midwives Harriett Louisa Ives (No. 28,708) and Lorna Stamm (No. 42,265).

EDMONTON COTTAGE TRAINING SCHOOL.

The Chairman reported on correspondence with the Honorary Secretary of the Cottage Benefit Nursing Association as to training at 260, Fore Street, Edmonton.

It was agreed that the Edmonton Cottage Training School be informed that under the present improved conditions of (a) premises and (b) Teaching Midwives, the Board is prepared to sanction the training of six pupils at a time.

The Secretary reported the presentation by two candidates for the February Examination of certificates of birth which had been tampered with. It was resolved in one case to adjourn the admission of the candidate to examination until an explanation was afforded, and in the other not to admit the candidate to examination.

Three midwives were admitted to the Roll by virtue of the possession of specified certificates gained after training and examination in the hospitals concerned in Scotland and Ireland.

The Secretary also reported having placed on the Roll the names of three midwives who had passed the examination of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland or for Ireland.

PENAL CASES.

A special meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings on Thursday, January 20th, to consider the charges alleged against eight certified midwives, with the following results:—

Struck off the Roll and Certificate Cancelled.—Midwives Agnes Alma Brown (No. 11,493), Ellen Grundy (No. 36,824), Sarah Hewetson (No. 29,457), Arabella Matilda Hopton (No. 10,731), Lillian Kate Parsons (No. 12,690).

Of these, Midwife Ellen Grundy was convicted (on her own confession) upon four charges of theft, and sentenced to pay fines amounting to £10 at the City Police Court, Liverpool, on December 9th, 1920, and Midwife Hopton was sentenced at Gloucester Assizes to seven years' penal servitude on being found guilty of procuring abortion, and inciting to procure abortion.

Midwives Hopton and Parsons were also prohibited from attending on maternity cases in any capacity.

Sentence Postponed.—In the cases of Midwives Amy Hiscock (No. 10,858), Amy Lake Freeman (No. 15,220), and Alice Prior (No. 5,015), sentence was postponed, and reports asked for from the Local Supervising Authorities in 3 and 6 months.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD FOR SCOTLAND.

At a meeting of the Board, held in Edinburgh, Sir J. Halliday Croom in the chair, the Viscountess Novar was introduced to the meeting and took her seat as a member of the Board.

On concluding the ordinary business, Sir Halliday Croom, in a valedictory address on his retirement from the Board, thanked the members for the loyal support he had received as Chairman, and referred to the pleasant and harmonious way in which the work had been carried out.

On the motion of Dr. A. Campbell Munro, seconded by Sir Archibald Buchan-Hepburn, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Sir Halliday Croom for the efficient manner in which he had discharged the important duties of Chairman of the Board since its formation during a period of five years.

The Board also expressed its appreciation of the able and valuable services rendered by Mr. D. L. Eadie, the Secretary.

It was intimated that the new Board would be constituted early next month.

Annie Klapproth, alias "Nurse Phipps," has been committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court on a charge of wilful murder, by performing an illegal operation, and Edward James Pratt with being an accessory before the fact.

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