

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

MONTHLY MEETING.

A meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held in the Board Room, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, on Wednesday, June 22nd. Sir Francis Champneys, Bart., Chairman of the Board, presided.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

On the report of the Standing Committee:—

A letter was considered from Mr. H. O. Stutchbury, of the Ministry of Health, enclosing a copy of a letter from the Registrar of the General Medical Council as to the new Rules of the Board. It was agreed that the letter be received.

(It will be remembered that under the Midwives Act, 1902, Rules framed under Section 3 of the Act were valid only if approved by the Privy Council; and the Privy Council, before approving any such Rules, was required to take into consideration any representations which the General Medical Council might make in regard thereto. When the Ministry of Health was formed in 1919 it took over the duties of the Privy Council in this connection.)

ACTION BY GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.

The Executive Committee of the General Medical Council, at its meeting on May 24th, passed the following resolution:—

Resolved: "That with reference to Resolution C (p. 9) Section 1 (2) (a), (b), (c), (d), the Executive Committee regards it as desirable that as soon as the General Nursing Councils are in a position to lay down a satisfactory definition of a registered fully-trained nurse, that definition should be substituted in these Regulations for the several special definitions contained in (a), (b), (c), (d)."

The opinion incorporated in this Resolution was conveyed to the Minister of Health in the above letter.)

A letter was also received from Mr. R. H. Crooks, of the Ministry of Health, stating that the Minister of Health approved the Rules submitted by the Board for a period of one year from June 30th, 1921.

It was resolved that the Minister of Health be informed:—

"That the Board ventures to express its strong hope that he will not limit his approval of the Rules, as finally arranged with the Board, to one year. Such a limitation could not, in the opinion of the Board, fail to produce a serious impairment of the authority of the Rules, on which the safety of the mothers and infants of the nation largely depends. Moreover, the Board believes that the ground of such proposed limitation consists in one particular only, namely, the expected National Register of Nurses in preparation by the General Nursing Council. The Board would point out that

the necessary alteration in the Rules could be made at any time, and without delay; whereas the Revision of the Rules as a whole would take far longer.

"The Board trusts therefore that the Rules will be approved for the usual period of five years."

A FIRST-FRUIT OF LEGAL REGISTRATION.

For the information of our readers we may state that the Resolution of the General Medical Council printed above refers to the Rule of the Central Midwives' Board, "regulating the Course of Training and the Conduct of Examinations, and the Remuneration of the Examiners."

It will be recollected that, when the length of training required of pupil midwives was increased to six months, certain concessions were made to nurses, who were exempted from two of the six months' training, provided that the applicant produced a certificate of

(a) Three years' training as a nurse in a General Hospital having not less than one hundred beds;

(b) Three years' training in a Poor Law Institution, recognised by the Local Government Board as a Training School for Nurses; and

(c) Enrolment as a Queen's Nurse by the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses.

Other concessions were made to nurses who proved that during their training in a General Hospital they have undergone training for not less than three months in (a) a Children's Ward, and (b) a Gynæcological Ward in either of which new-born babies are received for treatment.

Also to candidates who prove that they have undergone a course of three years' instruction in Nursing in a Hospital for Women containing not less than 50 beds.

In the new Rules, published on Monday, June 27th, "Registration by the College of Nursing, Ltd.," is added as exempting candidates from two of the six months' training required of ordinary candidates, as are candidates who prove that they have undergone a course of six months' instruction in nursing in a Children's Hospital or a Gynæcological Hospital.

All this procedure—adopted no doubt because at the time that the Rules were drawn up there was no legal definition of a trained nurse—is very cumbersome, necessitating no less than six different Schedules, defining different grounds on which nurses are entitled to a reduction in the term of training.

In our issue of December 4th we wrote: "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."

We are glad to note that this is the procedure advocated to the Ministry of Health by the General Medical Council, and sent down to the Central Midwives' Board by the Ministry. Further,

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