

## The Midwife.

### CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

The Monthly Meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board's Offices, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, on Thursday, October 13th, Sir Francis Champneys, Bart., presiding.

The Reports of the Finance and Examination Committees were presented by the Secretary.

#### REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

In connection with the Report of the Standing Committee a letter was received from the Ministry of Health forwarding a copy of a letter with reference to the Regulations under the Dangerous Drugs Act, addressed by the Ministry to Local Supervising Authorities.

A letter was received from the Registrar of the Midwives Board, Victoria, with reference to the question of reciprocity between it and the English Board. It was resolved:—

"That the Registrar be informed that the Board views with favour the principle of reciprocity between it and the Boards of the British Dominions but regrets that it does not consider that it is practicable at the present time for it to prescribe a course of training equivalent to the Victorian standard, *i.e.*, twelve months for an untrained pupil and six months for a trained nurse. In the event of the Board becoming aware of the desire of any pupil midwife to practice in Victoria it would advise such pupil of the length of training required by the Victorian Board."

A letter was read from the Inspector of Midwives for Buckinghamshire enquiring as to the person in whom the ownership of the Register of Cases used by the midwife is vested.

A letter was also read from the County Medical Officer of Health for Buckinghamshire suggesting that the Board should rule that all Registers supplied to midwives by the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Act, 1918, Section 7 (2), are the property of the Local Supervising Authority and should be returned to that body when the midwife leaves its jurisdiction or ceases to practice in its area.

It was resolved:—

"That the reply be that the question of the person in whom ownership of a midwife's Register of Cases is vested is one to be decided by a Court of Law and not by the Board."

A letter was received from the Medical Officer of Health for Stoke-on-Trent asking the opinion of the Board as to the propriety of midwives receiving fees from an Insurance Society in consideration of the notification to the Society by the midwives of births occurring in their practices.

It was resolved to reply:—

"That in the opinion of the Board a midwife who notifies an Insurance Company of births occurring in her practice, without the express

consent of the patients, commits a breach of the confidential relationship which exists between her patients and herself, and that the Board does not view with favour the practice referred to in the letter."

A letter was received from the County Medical Officer of Health for Kent enquiring whether compensation may be paid to midwives in accordance with Section 6 (2) of the Midwives Act, 1918, in specified circumstances.

It was resolved "that the County Medical Officer of Health for Kent be informed that in the opinion of the Board the question as to the payment of compensation to a midwife who is suspended by a Local Supervising Authority from practice in order to prevent the spread of infection is one to be decided by the Local Supervising Authority concerned and not by the Board. In the case of suspension by the Board the question would be decided by the Board."

A letter was received from the Secretary of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland forwarding a copy of the new Rules which the Scottish Board proposes to make, and asking for the observations of the Board thereon. It was agreed

That the Secretary of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland be informed that the Board has no observations to make on the draft Rules of the Scottish Board other than to state that as at present advised it does not consider the training which has led to the appearance of the name of a candidate on one of the Supplementary parts of the Register of one of the General Nursing Councils as equivalent to the general training required by the Board, as justifying the reduction of her training from six to four months, and her admission to the Roll under such conditions.

#### APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL.

The following applications were approved:—

*As Lecturer.*—Dr. Gerald Graham Alderson, F.R.C.S.

*As Teacher.*—Midwives Annie Ambrose (No. 40679), Elizabeth Crompton (No. 37893), Mary Constance Edwards (No. 34575), Catherine Bessie Macintosh (No. 48441), Helena Joyce More (No. 44980), Emmeline Mary Morgan (No. 54410), Elizabeth Annie Muncaster (No. 40512), Margaret North (No. 52613), Beatrice Ockerby (No. 48481), Louise Margaret Thomas (No. 41370), and Harriet Elizabeth Gagg (No. 36797) *pro hac vice*; and the following subject to conditions: Prudence Howell (No. 45182) and Amelia Ann Rawlings (No. 33927).

Six midwives were granted admission to the Roll under Section 10 of the Midwives Act, 1918, by reason of holding the certificate of the Central Midwives Board for Ireland, otherwise than by the Examination of that Board.

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