

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

THE MONTHLY MEETING.

A meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, S.W., on Thursday, July 28th, Sir Francis Champneys, Bart., Chairman, presiding.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

The Standing Committee reported:—

1. A letter from Mr. H. A. de Montmorency of the Ministry of Health stating the reasons of the Minister of Health for limiting the approval of the Rules to one year, and also stating that the Minister does not anticipate that such limitation of his approval will have the effect suggested by the Board.

The Board agreed that the letter be received.

2. A letter from Dr. W. E. Fothergill complaining of the inclusion by the General Nursing Council in its Draft Syllabus for Education and Training of certain midwifery subjects, and suggesting that the Board should express an opinion on the matter to the General Nursing Council.

A letter on the subject from Dr. Fairbairn was also considered.

It was resolved that Dr. Fothergill be informed that the question of the instruction of nurses does not fall within the scope of the Central Midwives Board.

(It will be remembered that Dr. Fairbairn's views on this question were incorporated in an article recently published in this Journal.)

3. A letter from the Secretary of the Central Midwives Board for Ireland enclosing for the Board's consideration a copy of the proposed new Rules for the Irish Board. It was agreed to reply that the Board has carefully considered the Draft Rules of the Central Midwives Board for Ireland, and (subject to the observations made by its Secretary to the Secretary for Ireland) is prepared to agree with them.

4. A letter from the Hon. Secretary of the National League for Health, Maternity and Child Welfare expressing the hope that the Board will take appropriate action on the following resolution which was passed at the Second English-speaking Conference on Infant Welfare during the first week of July, 1921.

"That this Conference is of opinion that a great deal of unnecessary loss of sight is still caused by the failure to secure adequate preventive measures and prompt skilled treatment for Ophthalmia Neonatorum and urges the Ministry of Health to institute an inquiry into the causes of such failure."

The Board resolved that the Hon. Secretary of the National League for Health, Maternity and Child Welfare be informed that the Board fully appreciates the dangers which arise from Oph-

thalmia Neonatorum, and that her attention be drawn to the present Rules of the Board which have been framed with the object of obviating those dangers as far as possible.

APPLICATIONS.

The following applications were granted:—

For Approval as Lecturer.—Miss Hilda Mary Halliday, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., subject to conditions.

For Approval as Teacher.—Midwives M. A. Matthewson (No. 46,551) and E. M. S. Wood (No. 54,057); also Midwife C. Dickson (No. 36,758) pro hac vice.

The Secretary reported the presentation by a candidate for examination of a certificate of birth which had been tampered with.

It was resolved that she be not admitted to any examination of the Board prior to that of October, 1921.

Application for admission to the Midwives Roll of two midwives holding the certificates of the National Maternity Hospital, Dublin, and the Royal Maternity Hospital, Glasgow, were considered and accepted.

The Secretary reported having placed on the Roll, in conformity with the Board's instructions, ten midwives holding a certificate of having passed the Examinations of the Central Midwives Boards for Scotland and Ireland.

PENAL CASES.

A Special Meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, S.W., on Thursday, July 28th, for the hearing of charges alleged against certified midwives with the following results:—

Struck off the Roll and Certificates Cancelled.—Midwife Margaret Hunter (No. 30,812), on adjourned final Report; Midwife Ellen Goodwin (No. 14,649); Midwife Eliza Long (No. 7,908), who was also prohibited from attending on lying-in women in any capacity.

Judgment Postponed. (Report asked for from the Local Supervising Authority in three and six months' time.)—Midwife Hannah Norton (No. 13,759).

The statistical bureau of Budapest has (says the correspondent of the *Lancet*) just issued its annual report for 1920, in which it is stated that notwithstanding unusually prolonged periods of intensely hot weather, there were fewer deaths of children under five years than in any preceding summer; for the first time in the history of the city the summer mortality fell below 50 per 1,000 per annum. The Committee for Distribution and Supply of Pure Milk to Babies undertook the supply of pasteurised milk in 1906; 2,112 children under five years died in the summer of that year. In 1920 there were only 1,710 deaths in a population of children larger by 45,000 than that of 1906.

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