

# The Midwife.

## CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

A Meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, on Thursday April 27th. Sir Francis Champneys presided, but vacated the chair while the first business on the Agenda—the election of Chairman—took place, which resulted in the re-election of Sir Francis Champneys, a foregone conclusion. In this connection Professor Henry Briggs spoke as follows:—

"Our regard for our Chairman's work and our esteem for him are still unbroken.

Every member of the Board feels at each step the firm foothold; much of this rock has been chosen and collected by the Chairman himself, a man of grit and judgment.

The members of the Board are alive to their gigantic debt to the Chairman, and to him they again express the best of thanks. They also realize the high standard of loyal service of the Secretary and of the whole office staff. Long may the leading and co-operation endure.

This is the Board's 20th birthday. April brings one of its brightest moments to the members who so highly appreciate the services of Sir Francis Champneys."

The Finance and Penal Cases Committee were elected, and a letter was received from Dr. H. West thanking the Board for their congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of his marriage.

The Board then adjourned for the holding of the Penal Board and the meetings of the various Committees.

### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

On the recommendation of the Standing Committee the following members were appointed to constitute the Approvals Sub-Committee:—Lady Mabelle Egerton, Dr. J. S. Fairbairn, Miss M. O. Haydon, Dr. R. A. Lyster, Miss Rosalind Paget, Mr. C. Sangster.

A letter was received from the Director of the Division of Nursing Public Health Department, New Zealand (Miss Hester Maclean, R.R.C.), with reference to the Resolution passed by the Board at its Meeting on November 17th, 1921, on the question of Reciprocity between the Board and the Midwifery Authority in New Zealand.

It was resolved that the Director of the Division of Nursing, Public Health Department, New Zealand, be informed that the Board is now satisfied that the standard of midwifery training and examination in New Zealand is in fact equivalent to the standard laid down by the Board and it will admit to its Roll, subject to compliance with the terms and conditions of Section 10 of the Midwives Act, 1918, midwives who hold the Certificate of the Midwifery Authority in New Zealand in virtue of having passed the Examination of that Authority, provided that all midwives who hold the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board in

virtue of having passed its Examination are afforded reciprocal opportunities of being admitted to the Midwives Roll in New Zealand.

The Board desires to point out that no training in England or Wales outside an institution can be accepted unless the training medical practitioner or midwife is specially approved by the Board for the purpose, and that the Board always satisfies itself that such training is adequate. In these circumstances it trusts that the New Zealand authorities will see their way to accord to all midwives enrolled in England who have been trained to the satisfaction of the Board the privileges at present accorded to those midwives only who are trained nurses or who have been trained in institutions.

### RECIPROCITY WITH SCOTLAND AND IRELAND.

The Secretary reported that twelve Scottish and Irish midwives holding the certificate, by examination, of the Central Midwives' Board for Scotland and Ireland had been placed on the Roll.

The names of seven midwives were removed from the Roll at their own request.

### RESOLUTION.

It was resolved, on the motion of Dr. Lyster:—

(1) "That in the opinion of the Board it is desirable that the power to inspect lying-in institutions which is at present possessed by a few local supervising authorities under local Acts should be extended to all local supervising authorities."

(2) "That the Board requests the Ministry of Health to endeavour to arrange for legislation to be carried in order to give effect to the above resolution."

### THE APRIL EXAMINATION.

At the ninety-second Examination of the Central Midwives' Board, held in London and the Provinces on April 3rd, 623 candidates were examined and 486 passed the examiners. The percentage of failures was 22.0.

So large a percentage of failures must be disappointing alike to the candidates, many of whom have considerable difficulty in paying the fees for training and can ill afford to expend more, to the training schools, and to the Board itself. A conference on training methods might do something towards eliciting the reason.

### NATIONAL BABY WEEK COUNCIL.

At the Annual Meeting of the National Baby Week Council, which is to be held in the Lecture Hall, Carnegie House, 117, Piccadilly, W., on Tuesday, May 9th, at 3.0 p.m., Dr. Eric Pritchard presiding, Sir Arthur Newsholme, K.C.B., M.D., will give an Address on "Mortality in the First Month after Birth and the Possibility of Reducing It"; and Dr. Janet Lane Claypon will speak on "The Milk Question."

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