

The Midwife.

MIDWIFERY IN IRELAND.

A public meeting for midwives and other persons interested, has been arranged by the Irish Nurses' and Midwives' Union, to take place in the Central Halls, Exchequer Street, Dublin, on Wednesday, February 8th, at 4.30 p.m. It is hoped that there will be a large attendance at this meeting, as subjects of great importance and public interest will be discussed. The following resolutions will be brought forward, and spoken to by well-known speakers, including the Hon. Albinia Brodrick, whose name is so well known in the nursing world:—

RESOLUTIONS.

"That this Union urges the Central Midwives' Board for Ireland, to increase the period of training for midwives to twelve months instead of the present six months, as it is the opinion of recently trained midwives themselves that the present training is too short."

"That this meeting calls upon all medical practitioners and other persons professionally connected with maternity work to refuse to accept the assistance of untrained women in maternity cases, when trained midwives are available, and requests them to do all in their power to prevent such 'handywomen' being employed by patients."

"That, in view of the fact that the Midwives' Act of 1918 is likely to be strictly enforced in Ireland in the near future, which will mean constant inspection and supervision, it will be more than ever necessary that certified midwives should have the protection of an organisation specially qualified to deal with their technical professional affairs. We also consider that the inspectors appointed under the Act should be trained midwives themselves, as it is very necessary that women should be employed for this work."

"That we call upon the Local Government Department and all public authorities to afford recognition to the Irish Nurses' and Midwives' Union as the organisation from which applicants for vacant posts under their direction should be sought, as this Union is the only Trade Union for nurses and midwives in Ireland, and represents a large body of Irish women who are anxious to earn their living at their own profession in their own country."

The practices of untrained women on maternity cases are still very common in Ireland, not only in the remote country districts, but even in the heart of the city of Dublin itself, and it is very necessary for the future health and well-being of the Irish race that the evils resulting from these practices should be more widely known. We think that other countries are more up to date

in these matters than is Ireland, and it is hoped that this meeting will do something towards rousing public opinion on the question.

We congratulate the Union on urging upon the authorities the necessity for an extension of training from six to twelve months for Certified Midwives. The same reform is also needed in Great Britain.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

MONTHLY MEETING.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, on Thursday, January 26th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

The correspondence included a letter from the Secretary of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, informing the Board that Miss Rosalind Paget has been re-appointed as the representative of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses on the Central Midwives' Board for one year ensuing April 1st next.

A letter was received from Mr. H. O. Stutchbury, of the Ministry of Health, suggesting a Conference between some of the members and the Ministry of Health on the subject of the administration of drugs by midwives.

It was agreed that the Chairman, Dr. Fairbairn, Miss Paget, and Miss Haydon represent the Board at a Conference with the Ministry of Health on the subject of the administration of drugs by midwives.

A letter was received (1) from the Secretary of the Association of County Medical Officers of Health forwarding a copy of a Resolution on the question of the administration of drugs by midwives passed by that Association: "It is the opinion of this Association that opium and similar dangerous drugs should not be given by midwives except under medical supervision."

It was agreed that a copy of the Resolution on the question of the administration of drugs by midwives passed by the Board at its meeting held on November 17th, 1921, be forwarded to the Secretary of the Association of County Medical Officers of Health.

(2) A letter from the Town Clerk, forwarding a Resolution in a similar sense passed by the Hull City Council, and expressing the opinion that the authority of the Secretary of State which permits midwives to carry and administer drugs containing opium should be revoked; and (3) a letter on the same subject from the Town Clerk of Birmingham were also considered.

The Board's Resolution of November 17th, 1921, was forwarded to each of these authorities.

(To be concluded.)

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