

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

MONTHLY MEETING.

A meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held in the Board Room, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, on Thursday, October 12th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter was received from Miss Puxley of the Ministry of Health, stating that the Minister of Health approves, under Section 7 of the Midwives Act, 1902, the decision of the Board to pay the Secretary as from August 18th last the full bonus according to the scale in force in the Civil Service.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was received from the Registrar of Midwives, New Zealand, stating that he was willing to concede that the midwives trained outside institutions and registered on that training by the Board, may, on production of proof of after-residency and work in an approved maternity training school for the term needed as equivalent to that required under the New Zealand Act, be accepted for registration, and that failing such additional experience they may make up the time in the Dominion, and sit for the State Examination, and asking that this proposal for reciprocity might be accepted by the Board.

The Board decided that the Registrar of Midwives, New Zealand, be informed that the Board appreciates the concession which the Registrar is willing to make in favour of midwives holding the Board's Certificates who have not been trained in an institution, but regrets that such concession would not empower the Board to enter into reciprocal arrangements with New Zealand under Section 10 of the Midwives Act, 1918; the Board is, however, quite willing to recognise the training undergone by midwives registered in New Zealand, and will not require any such midwives as may wish to sit for the Board's examination to undergo further training.

A letter was received from the Superintendent of the Gloucester District Nursing Society asking if a pupil could be admitted to examination on undergoing four months' midwifery training in consequence of three years' training at the Yeovil Cottage Hospital, and registration by the General Nursing Council for England.

It was resolved that the pupil in question be required to undergo a six months' course of midwifery training before sitting for examination.

The applications of Miss Ethel M. Hefford and Miss Constance Whyte, who have been certified as midwives by the Colonial Medical Council in South Africa, to be admitted to Examination without undergoing further training, were granted.

A letter was received from the Clerk of the Middlesex County Council reporting that the

County Council was not in a position to find a prima facie case under Section 8 (2) of the Midwives Act, 1902, against the midwife who had administered a "whiff of chloroform" (whose action was under consideration by the Board at its last meeting), and again asking for the Board's views as to the desirability of a midwife administering chloroform.

It was resolved that the Clerk of the Middlesex County Council be informed that the Board will express its opinion as to whether or not the use of a drug by a midwife is justified when it has a concrete case before it, and is aware of all the circumstances attending the administration or the use of such drug. The Board saw no reason why the midwife should not be reported in order that it might consider the question on a concrete case.

APPLICATIONS.

For approval as Lecturer.—The applications of the following medical practitioners were granted:—Dr. Edward William Rees-Jones, D.P.H., Dr. Edward Posnett, Dr. John Russell Brodie Russell.

For approval as Teacher.—The applications of the following midwives were granted:—Midwife Emma Dix (No. 44038), Midwife Edith Sarah Annie Morton (No. 55466), and of Midwife Deborah Anne Ladbroke (No. 30265), subject to conditions.

RECIPROCITY WITH SCOTLAND AND IRELAND.

Applications of four midwives were approved to be certified by the Board under Section 10 of the Midwives Act, 1918, by reason of holding the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland, or the Central Midwives Board for Ireland, obtained by virtue of the possession of the Certificate of the Hospital specified in each case, gained after training and examination by that hospital.

The Secretary reported that in conformity with the Board's Resolutions of July 25th, 1918, and October 14th, 1920, he had placed on the Roll the names of thirteen midwives holding a certificate of having passed the Examination of the Central Midwives Boards for Scotland or for Ireland.

PENAL CASES.

At a Special Meeting to consider penal cases on Wednesday, October 11th, charges alleged against eight midwives were heard, with the following results:—

Struck off the Roll.—Midwives I. D. Benoy (No. 24452), Frances Hall (No. 11254), Emma Laight (No. 17341), Margaret Hunter Lewis (No. 39720), and Ruth Adams Spencer (No. 16928). The last two were prohibited from attendance on maternity cases in any capacity.

Sentence Postponed.—Midwife R. A. Barcroft (No. 46704).

Cautioned.—Midwives Jessie Crompton (No. 46002), L. E. Smith (No. 27820).

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