

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

A meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, on Thursday, December 21st, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was received from Miss E. M. Anderton asking that she may be admitted to examination on a four months' course of midwifery training in consequence of the possession of the General Nursing Council Certificate obtained as a result of three years' training at the Reigate and Red Hill Hospital. It was resolved that the application be not granted.

Letters were received from Drs. Hellier, Murray and Savage as to the recent increase in the percentage of failure at the Leeds, Liverpool and Birmingham Centres respectively.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Royal Sanitary Institute urging that action should be taken by amending Section 1 subsection (2) of the Midwives Act, 1902, or otherwise, in order to prevent unqualified persons from attending women in childbirth without the effective direction of a qualified medical practitioner.

In connection with this letter a resolution of the County Councils' Association to the effect that Section 1 (2) of the Midwives Act, 1902, should be amended so as to ensure that in no case, save an unpreventable emergency, shall an uncertified woman for gain attend women in childbirth otherwise than under the direct physical supervision of a qualified medical practitioner was considered.

It was agreed that the Secretary of the Royal Sanitary Institute and the Secretary of the County Councils' Association be informed that in the opinion of the Board the words "under the direction of" in Section 1 (2) of the Midwives Act, 1902, mean "in the presence and under the direction of." The Section also includes the words "habitually and for gain" which are unnecessary, lead to confusion and generally render the Section futile. The Board will take the earliest opportunity of pressing for the necessary amendments.

APPLICATIONS OF CERTIFIED MIDWIVES FOR APPROVAL AS TEACHER.

The following applications were granted:—Edith Downing, No. 29057; Ivy Muriel Robertson, No. 42233; Elizabeth Rushton, No. 47385; Elizabeth Anne Waters, No. 30908; Marianne Wenden, No. 47454.

RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION.

The Secretary reported that in conformity with the Board's Resolution of July 25th, 1918, he had placed on the Roll the name of the following woman holding a Certificate of having passed the Examination of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland:—Euphemia Cameron, No. 58708.

Applications were received from the following women for the removal of their names from the Roll on the grounds specified:—Alice Charlotte Feast (21236), ill health; Pamela Gascoigne (2307), old age and ill health; Julia Hanshaw (7214), ill health; Sophia Mary Wickham (34059), old age and ill health.

The Board resolved that the applications be granted, and that the Secretary be directed to remove their names from the Roll of Midwives and to cancel their Certificates.

MEETINGS IN 1923.

The dates of the Ordinary Board Meetings to be held in 1923 were considered.

Resolved that the dates of the Ordinary Meetings be fixed as follows:—January 25th, February 22nd, March 22nd, April 26th, May 24th, June 21st, July 26th, October 11th, November 15th, December 13th.

CONFERENCE WITH INSPECTORS OF MIDWIVES.

The Secretary reported the result of a Conference which the Solicitor and he had had with a deputation from the Association of Inspectors of Midwives on the subject of issuing citations in penal cases before the receipt of statutory declarations made by the Inspectors of Midwives concerned.

The suggestions of the Solicitor and the Secretary were approved.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD FOR SCOTLAND.

Mrs. Agnes Hobbs, Certified Midwife, No. 798, 197, Hamilton Road, Halfway, Cambuslang, was recently cited to appear before the Board for breaches of the Rules, failure to take and record pulse and temperatures, failure to keep Register of Cases, failure to send for medical assistance in a case of emergency and to be generally incapable of carrying out the Rules. The charges were found proved and the Secretary was instructed to cancel her certificate and to remove her name from the Roll, and further to prohibit her from attending women in childbirth in any other capacity.

BELFAST MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

The inspiring announcement was made at a Sale of Work held recently on behalf of the Belfast Maternity Hospital that Miss Riddell, a generous benefactor to City charities, proposed to give the sum of £9,000 to the Endowment Fund of the hospital.

The gift has come at a very opportune moment, as the income has been insufficient of recent years to meet the expenditure, and additional expense has been incurred by the establishment of an antenatal clinic, and other developments are in progress.