The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

FEBRUARY EXAMINATION.

At the February Examination held by the Central Midwives Board in London and the Provinces, 660 candidates were examined, and 506 passed the examiners. The percentage of failures was 23.3.

MONTHLY MEETING.

A Meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, on February 22nd, Sir Francis Champneys, Bart., M.D., F.R.C.P., Chairman of the Board, presiding.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Correspondence included :—

(*a*) A Letter from the Registrar of the Royal College of Physicians, informing the Board that Sir Francis Champneys, Bart., M.D., F.R.C.P., has been re-elected as the representative of the College on the Board.

(*b*) A Letter from the Secretary of the County Councils' Association, informing the Board that Mr. Leonard Henry West, O.B.E., LL.D., has been re-elected as the representative of the Association on the Board.

(*c*) A Letter from the Secretary of the Incorporated Midwives' Institute, informing the Board that Mr. John Shields Fairbairn, M.B., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., Miss Mabelle Elizabeth Pearson, and Miss Anna Albertina Isabella Pollard have been re-elected as the representatives of the Institute on the Board.

(*d*) A Letter from the Clerk to the Society of Apothecaries, informing the Board that Mr. Charles Sangster, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., has been re-elected as the representative of the Society on the Board.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was received from the Clerk of the Hampshire County Council, stating that his letter with regard to the use of drugs by midwives (considered at the last Meeting of the Board) appears to have been misunderstood; that it is not suggested that the Board should schedule drugs which may or may not be used by midwives, but that it should prohibit the application or administration of any drugs other than a simple aperient except under proper medical advice; and asking the Board to reconsider his Committee's representation in the light of his further letter.

A letter to the like effect from the Clerk of the Surrey County Council was also received.

It was resolved :—That the Clerks of the Hants and Surrey County Councils be informed that the Board does not see its way to prohibit the application or administration of any drugs other than a simple aperient except under proper medical advice, and that it was the intention of the Board to convey this view by the Resolution which it passed at its last Meeting.

A letter was received from the Clerk of the London County Council with reference to the Resolution as to the duty of a midwife to call in medical aid in any case of ruptured perinæum which requires stitching, passed at the last Meeting of the Board, and drawing attention to a letter addressed to the Council's Medical Officer by the Board in 1918, upon which the Council had based its practice of considering the question of a serious rupture upon its merits, and not upon the fact that the perinæum required to be sutured; also that the Council now assumes that any case in which a midwife sutures a perinæum should be treated as a case of negligence or misconduct and reported to the Board for decision.

It was resolved :—That the Clerk of the London County Council be informed that the circumstances under which the letter of 1918 was sent by the Board are no longer in existence, and that the Local Authority should find a *primâ facie* case whenever in its opinion the judgment of the Board is required.

The Board took into consideration the question of the advisability of granting applications for approval as a Lecturer or Teacher in respect of institutions where training has not hitherto been conducted pending a reconsideration of the whole question of training, and it was resolved that pending a reconsideration of the whole question of training no application for approval as a Lecturer or Teacher in respect of institutions where training has not hitherto been conducted be considered.

RECIPROCITY WITH SCOTLAND AND IRELAND.

Two Midwives were placed on the Roll having been certified by the Central Midwives' Board for Ireland in virtue of the possession of certificates from specified hospital gained after training and examination, and two in virtue of holding a certificate, and of having passed the Examination of the Central Midwives' Board for Scotland or for Ireland.

ADMINISTRATION OF ANÆSTHETICS BY MIDWIVES.

A letter was considered from the Medical Secretary of the British Medical Association stating that the Council of that Association is of opinion that midwives should not administer anæsthetics except when they are acting under the direct personal supervision of the doctor in charge of the case, and expressing the hope that the Board will give the matter its serious consideration.

The Board resolved that the Medical Secretary of the British Medical Association be informed that the Board is in agreement with the view expressed in the letter, and that for special reasons only no action was taken in the case to which reference is made.

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