

The Midwife.

THE PAIN AND PERIL OF CHILDBIRTH.

We are now accustomed to the alleviation of the pain of childbirth through the merciful administration of chloroform, and to the minimising of its peril where careful and skilful midwifery is practised. Still, the national death rate in England and Wales is much higher than it should be, and occasionally one hears even of several deaths in quick succession in the practise of a midwife. Such cases make us feel thankful that there is a Central Midwives' Board which has power to summon a midwife to appear before it to give account of herself, and if they find she is blameworthy, have authority to strike her off the Roll, and further can prohibit her from attending on women in labour in any capacity. While this will not bring back the dead, or give back to little children a mother's care, it will prevent like disasters occurring in other families.

The appointment of Inspectors is also a safeguard, for they should be able to detect and report midwives whose work is done so inefficiently that it is a danger to the public safety, and thus materially assist in purging the Midwives' Roll of culpably ignorant or unworthy midwives.

There is another side to the picture. The fact that flagrant cases are considerably decreasing and very many fewer midwives are cited to appear before the Central Midwives' Board than in the first years of its existence, show that it is successfully carrying on the work for which it was established. We may hope that the time will come when not one unnecessary death occurs in childbirth in England and Wales, and that till such time the Central Midwives Board will be a terror to evil doers and a praise to them that do well.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

At the Monthly Meeting of the Central Midwives' Board, held on Thursday, March 22nd, applications were considered from the following women 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 Ireland, obtained in virtue of the possession of the Certificate of the Hospital specified in each case, gained after training and examination by that Hospital:—

Name.	Hospital.
Anna Marie Carmody.	Coombe Hospital, Dublin.
Annie McCormick.	National Maternity Hospital, Dublin.

It was agreed that the standard of training undergone by the above women at their respective Hospitals and the Examinations at those Hospitals passed by them and accepted by the Central Midwives' Board for Ireland, being equivalent to the standard adopted by the Board, their names

be entered on the Midwives' Roll and a Certificate granted to each of them on payment of the fee of one guinea, in accordance with the terms of the Midwives' Act, 1918, Section 10.

The Secretary reported that in conformity with the Board's Resolution of July 25th, 1918, he had placed on the Roll the names of the following women holding a Certificate of having passed the Examination of the Central Midwives' Board for Scotland:—

Nora Peart	No. 59,695
Mary Mackenzie	No. 59,696
Mary Ann Tuffs	No. 59,697

APPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY REMOVAL OF NAME FROM THE ROLL.

Applications were received from four women for the removal of their names from the Roll on the grounds specified:—

Elizabeth Dymond	14,035 ..	Old age.
Ann Mee	3,828 ..	Old age.
Alice Morpus	2,666 ..	Ill health.
Eliza Robey	15,513 ..	Ill health.

It was agreed 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.

REVISION OF LIST OF EXAMINERS.

It was agreed that the List of Examiners submitted by the Secretary be approved for the year ensuing April 1st, 1923.

BRITISH HOSPITAL FOR MOTHERS AND BABIES, SAMUEL STREET, WOOLWICH, S.E.18.

The British Hospital for Mothers and Babies, Woolwich, desires to correct a mis-statement which has recently appeared in the Nursing Press.

The Hospital is a recognised Training School on exactly the same basis as similar Maternity Hospitals, approved by the Central Midwives' Board as centres for the preparation of pupils for the C.M.B. examination.

Alice S. Gregory, *Hon. Sec.*

CLAPHAM MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

The Annual Meeting will take place on April 10th at 3.30 at the Hospital, Jeffreys Road, Clapham. Dr. Helen Webb will be in the chair and the speaker will be Dr. Louisa McIlroy.

GOOD NEWS FOR LONDON BABIES.

From now and until October the price of milk in London will be 6d. a quart.

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