

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

A meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held in the Board Room, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, on Thursday, May 24th, Sir Francis Champneys, Bart., F.R.C.P., Chairman of the Board, presiding.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was received from Dr. Helen M. Du Buisson (who, in the course of her medical training, had already delivered twelve cases and witnessed many others) asking if she might sit for the Board's Examination without undergoing the full course of training required by the Rules.

It was agreed that Dr. Helen M. Du Buisson be admitted to Examination if she be signed up for the twelve cases already delivered by her by the authorities at King's College Hospital and if she delivers eight more cases and conducts twenty nursings during the puerperium under an Approved Teacher.

A letter was received from the Registrar of the General Medical Council stating that the Penal Cases Committee of the Council in a recent case before it recognised the importance of ensuring that certified midwives should not be induced by medical practitioners to undertake operative procedure outside their province. The Secretary reported that he had thanked the Registrar for his letter and the action of the Secretary was approved.

The Secretary reported the presentation by three candidates for the June Examination of certificates of birth which had been tampered with—Alice Gavagan, Veronica Morrison Gillespie, Catherine Murphy.

It was resolved (a) that Alice Gavagan be not admitted to any Examination of the Board prior to that of October, 1923; (b) that Veronica Morrison Gillespie be admitted to the Examination of the Board in June next; (c) that Catherine Murphy be not admitted to any Examination of the Board prior to that of October, 1923.

The Secretary reported that in conformity with the Board's Resolutions of July 25th, 1918, and October 4th, 1920, he had placed on the Roll the names of five midwives holding a Certificate of having passed the Examination of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland or the Central Midwives Board for Ireland, as the case may be.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD FOR SCOTLAND.

EXAMINATION PAPER.

The following are the questions set in the recent Examination of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland:—

1. (a) How would you test the urine for presence of albumin? (b) Describe the signs and symptoms

associated with albuminuria. (c) What are the chief dangers of the condition?

2. How would you diagnose a case of incomplete abortion? State the dangers associated with this condition.

3. (a) How would you diagnose a breech presentation? (b) Describe fully the management of a breech delivery.

4. Explain what is meant by Involution of the Uterus. How would you know if the puerperium were running a normal course?

5. How would you deal with the following:—(a) Asphyxia pallida; (b) a moist cord on the fifth day; (c) thrush.

6. What is the Rule of the Central Midwives Board concerning vaginal examination and passage of catheters? What bad results are likely to follow if these instructions are not carried out?

POST-GRADUATE WEEK.

It was a large and enthusiastic class of midwives which assembled at the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, Lambeth, S.E., on Monday, May 28th, for the course of instruction given in connection with the Eleventh Annual Post-Graduate week, arranged by the Hon. Secretary, Sister Coni.

The weather did not permit of the reception by the Matron and staff taking place in the garden, but tea was served at little tables in the entrance-hall of the hospital, and old friends and new foregathered over the friendly tea-cups for the inauguration of a pleasant and profitable week, the increasing numbers, and the fact that many had come from long distances, proving how widely the opportunity is appreciated.

At five o'clock the class assembled for the inaugural lecture by Dr. Richardson on "The Use of Drugs in Midwifery." He extended a hearty welcome to those present, and gave a short and interesting historical peep into the midwifery of the past, remarking that when the hospital was founded in 1765 men had only been doing midwifery a short time. In 1760, a noted midwife in the Haymarket, wrote a book, in which she sallied forth to combat some abuses, which was particularly directed against Dr. Smellie (one of the famous family of obstetricians who settled in London in 1739) and whom she described as "a great horse godmother of a midwife."

The effect of the great feud between doctors and midwives was to draw the attention of the public to the need for provision for the care of lying-in cases, and within fifteen years of the establishment of the General Lying-in Hospital five others were founded.

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