

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

The Monthly Meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Offices of the Board, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, S.W., on Thursday, June 21st, Sir Francis Champneys, Bart., M.D., F.R.C.P., presiding.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

On the Report of the Standing Committee:—

A letter was received from Miss Puxley of the Ministry of Health, stating that the Minister of Health approves the present Rules of the Board for a further period of six months from July 1st next.

A letter was received from the Registrar of the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council of Northern Ireland stating that the Midwives Committee of that body recommend—

- (a) The advisability of deleting the words "habitually and for gain" from Section 1 (2) of the Midwives (Ireland) Act, 1918 (which is practically identical with a similarly numbered sub-section of the English Act, 1902);
- (b) The advisability of adding the following words at the end of sub-section (2): "Nothing in this sub-section shall exempt from the duty of certification a woman habitually acting as a maternity nurse under the direction of a registered medical practitioner";

and asking the opinion of the Board on the proposed changes.

Also asking for the Board's opinion as to the desirability of seeking authority to charge certified midwives a yearly retention fee—say, not exceeding 2s. 6d.

It was resolved that the Registrar of the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council of Northern Ireland be informed—

- (a) That the Board has for a long time represented that the words "habitually and for gain" ought to be deleted from Section 1 (2) of the Midwives Act, 1902, and it is hoped that in the near future legislation will effect what is desired.
- (b) That the Central Midwives Board thinks that the proposed suggestion is impracticable.
- (c) That, whilst appreciating the desirability of ensuring that practising midwives notify their intention to practise, the Board is of opinion that the question of charging midwives an annual fee is one which requires very careful consideration, as in practice it might produce many complications and difficulties.

A letter was received from the Medical Officer of Health for Portsmouth with reference to the refusal of the Board to approve Dr. R. K. Ford as a lecturer, and again asking for his approval on the grounds mentioned in his letter.

It was resolved that having regard to the fresh facts brought to the notice of the Board, the Board approves Dr. R. K. Ford as a lecturer; that, at the same time, the Medical Officer of Health of Portsmouth be informed that the Board is reconsidering the whole question of the approval of lecturers, with the view of concentration into large classes, and that the approvals may at any time be reconsidered.

The Board regrets that the Borough Council authorised Dr. Ford to give lectures before obtaining his approval by the Board.

APPLICATIONS.

The following applications were granted:—

For Approval as Teacher (Medical Practitioner).—Henry James Drew Smythe, M.B., F.R.C.S. (subject to conditions).

For Approval as Teacher (Midwives).—Midwife Bessie Louisa Scott (No. 34,293); Midwife Amy Langdale (No. 50,408) (subject to conditions).

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 the following women 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:—Margaret Mary Fitzgerald (No. 60,199), Catherine Macpherson (No. 60,200).

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INFANT WELFARE.

The National Conference on Infant Welfare, held under the auspices of the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality and the National Baby Week Council sections of the National League for Health, Maternity, and Child Welfare, will be held at Carnegie House, 117, Piccadilly, London, W.1, on July 2nd, 3rd and 4th. The railway companies throughout the Kingdom are allowing members of the Conference to purchase tickets at reduced rates, on production of a voucher to be obtained only from the Secretary, at 117, Piccadilly, London, W.1.

MATRON REQUIRED AT QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITAL.

We refer our readers to our Supplemental Advertisement Pages for the details of the conditions attached to the post of Matron at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Marylebone Road, N.W., for which applications are invited. It is a desirable and honourable post, for which there will, no doubt, be many candidates.