

# The Midwife.

## CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

### MONTHLY MEETING.

A meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board Room, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, on Thursday, January 25th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter was received from the Secretary of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, stating that Miss Rosalind Paget had been re-appointed as the representative of the Institute on the Board for the year ensuing April 1st, 1923.

### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

Letters were received from the Local Supervising Authorities for the County of Southampton, Surrey, Ipswich, Great Yarmouth, and Southend-on-Sea, forwarding the following Resolution:—

"That the Central Midwives Board be urged to consider the desirability of making a rule prohibiting the application or administration by a midwife of any drug (*e.g.*, pituitrin or ergot), other than a simple aperient, before the birth of the child, except under the direction in each case of a registered medical practitioner."

It was agreed that the Local Supervising Authorities for the County of Southampton, Surrey, Ipswich, Great Yarmouth, and Southend-on-Sea be informed that the Central Midwives Board has always declined to schedule drugs except in so far as stated in Rule E. 19, and sees no reason to depart from its practice in this respect.

A letter was read from the Medical Officer of Health of Bethnal Green, conveying the following Resolution passed by the Public Health Committee of the Bethnal Green Borough Council:—

"That the Medical Officer of Health be instructed to write to the Central Midwives Board calling attention to the fact that Midwives are apparently allowed to perform the minor operation of stitching the perinæum without calling in medical aid; that the Committee is of opinion that Midwives should not be permitted to perform this operation; and that the Board be informed that the Committee is desirous of sending a small deputation to discuss the matter."

It was agreed that the Medical Officer of Health for Bethnal Green be informed that the Board has already expressed the view that any case of ruptured perinæum which requires stitching is a case of "serious" rupture within the meaning of Rule E 20 (3), and thinks that no useful purpose would be served by the Board receiving a deputation to discuss the matter.

A letter was read from Miss E. B. Franklin asking that she might be admitted to examination by virtue of midwifery training undergone in Victoria and registration as a midwife in that State.

It was agreed that the application be granted.

### APPLICATIONS.

*For Approval as Lecturer.*—The following applications were granted subject to conditions: Lionel Charles William Cane, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.; Richard Arderne Wilson, M.B.

*For Approval as Teacher.*—The following application was granted: Beatrice Mary Johnson, No. 26790.

The Standing Committee reported that the chairman made a communication on matters arising out of the case of Maud Mabel Cashmore, No. 3559, heard by the Penal Board on December 20th, 1922.

It was agreed on the recommendation of the Committee: (a) That the conduct of Dr. H. M. Wise, as disclosed by the evidence given at the hearing of the case of Maud Mabel Cashmore by the Board on December 20th, 1922, be reported to the General Medical Council; (b) (1) that the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies, Samuel Street, Woolwich, be required to obtain the annual approval of its training midwife and lecturer in future, (2) that in addition to such personal approval of training midwife and lecturer the approval by the Board of the arrangements for securing medical help be required; (c) that with regard to Mrs. Bruce Richmond's request for direction on certain points arising in a midwife's practice, Mrs. Richmond be informed that an order or advice from a doctor does not justify a midwife in adopting a treatment in the absence of a doctor which is manifestly outside the province of a midwife and that any such action on the part of a midwife will be judged on the merits of the case.

This case was one in which the Acting Sister-Superintendent of the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies telephoned for instructions to the Medical Officer of the Hospital in connection with a case in which uterine-inertia was present, and the foetal heart sounds diminishing. The head being actually in sight the doctor instructed the Sister to give a whiff of chloroform and lift the head over the perineum. This was done successfully, and the patient delivered of a living child. Subsequently the husband reported the case to the Central Midwives Board, which was unwilling to characterise the exceptional circumstances as "misconduct," and dismissed the case.

### PENAL CASES.

At a Meeting of the Central Midwives' Board, held on Thursday, January 25th, charges alleged against two midwives were heard, with the following results:—

*Struck Off the Roll and Certificate Cancelled.*—Midwife Hannah Taylor (No. 44651), who was also prohibited from acting in any capacity in attendance on a woman in childbirth.

*Cautioned.*—Midwife Annie Peart (No. 3187). Report asked for from Local Supervising Authority in three and six months' time.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)