

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, November 15th, Sir Francis Champneys, Bart., M.D., F.R.C.P., Chairman of the Council, presiding.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

On the report of the Standing Committee a letter was considered from the Medical Secretary of the British Medical Association stating that the Association desired to renew its protest against the permission given to midwives to use opium on their own initiative.

It was resolved that the Medical Secretary of the British Medical Association be informed that the Board sees no reason to alter the decision on this matter at which it has already arrived.

A letter was considered from a candidate making an application with regard to her training and admission to examination. It was resolved that the application be granted.

A letter was considered from the Chairman of the Colwall D.N.A. as to the suspension of Ann Elizabeth Price (No. 37,697) and a letter from the Medical Officer of Health for Herefordshire in connection therewith. It was resolved to inform the Chairman of the Association that the Board saw no reason to disagree with the action of the Medical Officer of Health for Herefordshire in the matters mentioned, and that the substance of Dr. Lowe's statement be forwarded at the same time.

APPLICATIONS.

For Approval as Lecturer.—The following application was granted *pro hac vice*: Kathleen Marguerite Douglas Harding, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

For Approval as Teachers.—The following applications were granted: Alice Franklin (No. 5486), Florence May Garrett (No. 35684), Elizabeth Jeffries (No. 28033). The following applications were granted, subject to conditions: Elizabeth Annie Maud Sewell (No. 45032), Alice Maud Shelton (No. 51962), Mary Jane Webb (No. 25415), Mary Jane White (No. 51339).

The Board having considered an application from Elizabeth Hartridge (late No. 13155), for the restoration of her name to the Midwives Roll, resolved that the application be granted, and that the name of Elizabeth Hartridge, late No. 13155, be restored to the Midwives Roll and a new certificate issued to her subject to the payment of the fee of 10s., as provided by Rule D 20, and the fee for special examination, if any.

RESIGNATION OF EXAMINER.

The Committee reported that Dr. Eardley Holland had tendered his resignation as an

examiner at the London Centre and recommended that the best thanks of the Board be given to Dr. Eardley Holland for his efficient services as one of the Board's examiners. This was agreed.

Dr. Aleck William Bourne, M.D., F.R.C.S., has been appointed an examiner to fill a vacancy at the London Centre.

An application was approved from Mary Angus to be certified under Section 10 of the Midwives Act, 1918, by reason of holding the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland, obtained in virtue of the possession of the Certificate of the Edinburgh Royal Maternity Hospital, gained after training and examination by that Hospital.

It was resolved that the Report on the work of the Board for the year ending March 31st, 1923, be signed by the Chairman and the Secretary, and forwarded to the Ministry of Health.

The Standing Committee reported that it had carefully considered a large number of suggestions for the amendment of the Rules sent in by Local Supervising Authorities, Medical Officers of Health, Examiners, and others; it had now completed the revision of the Rules and recommended that a copy of the revised Rules initialled by the Chairman, be approved by the Board and that the Minister of Health be asked to approve the same and to order that the new Rules shall come into force on January 1st next. This was agreed.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MIDWIVES' ACTS COMMITTEE.

USE OF NITRIC ACID.

The Midwives Act Committee of the L.C.C. reported to the Council at its meeting on Tuesday last that their attention has been called to two cases in which strong nitric acid had been put into the eyes of newly-born infants in mistake for a weak solution of nitrate of silver, resulting in one case in total blindness of one eye and in the other in very grave impairment of sight. That the use of this acid was, no doubt, due to want of proper care on the part of the midwives concerned, but that they are nevertheless of opinion that the Central Midwives Board should be asked to prohibit the use of nitric acid by practising midwives. In coming to this conclusion, they have had regard to the fact that the prohibition of this acid will not prejudicially affect the position of midwives, as the sole purpose which it serves can be attained by other and equally simple means. They recommended that, in the opinion of the Council, the use of nitric acid by practising midwives should be prohibited, and that the Central Midwives Board be so informed.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)