

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

At the Monthly Meeting of the Central Midwives' Board held at the Board Room, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, on April 24th, a letter was received from the Ministry of Health enclosing the nominations of Mrs. Marguerite Alice Christian Douglas-Drummond, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., Lady Mabelle Egerton, C.B.E., Miss Marion Olive Haydon and Miss Gladys Ivy Le Geyt, as members of the Central Midwives' Board for a period of one year from March 31st, 1924.

Professor Briggs, who has rendered valuable service to the Board, thus retires.

The application of Alexander Callum, Esq., M.D., for approval as a Lecturer was granted, and the following were approved as teachers: Midwives Ivy Hill, Bertha Birchall, and Josephine Tomkinson.

THE MARCH EXAMINATION.

At the Examination held under the authority of the Board in March last, 637 candidates presented themselves for the examination, and 514 passed. The percentage of failures was 19.3.

EXAMINATION PAPER.

The following are the questions set by the Central Midwives' Board at its Examination on March 31st:—

1. Describe the bladder and the urethra. Name the structures in relation with them, giving their positions.
2. Why do you keep a chart of mother and child after delivery? What information should these charts contain?
3. At what period of pregnancy is an ante-natal examination most valuable? What are the chief points to be determined?
4. Describe the more common injuries to the infant which may be produced during birth.
5. What is White Leg? How would you recognise it? What are the dangers to the patient? How would you guard against them?
6. What are the duties of a midwife when she is in attendance upon a patient suffering from puerperal fever or from any other condition supposed to be infectious?

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD FOR SCOTLAND.

MIDWIFE STRUCK OFF THE ROLL.

At a meeting of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland for the Hearing of Penal Cases, Dr. James Haig Ferguson, in the chair, Mrs. Jane McNairney, No. 3303, 25, Harmony Row, Govan, Glasgow, was found guilty of negligence and breaches of the rules and of having allowed an uncertified woman to do her work, &c.

The Board found the charges proved and instructed the Secretary to remove the name of Jane McNairney from the Roll of Midwives and to cancel her certificate.

NOTES FROM THE IRISH NURSES' AND MIDWIVES' UNION.

MIDWIVES' MEETING.

A meeting of the Midwives' Section was recently held in the Mansion House, Dublin, to call attention to the con-

tinuance of the practising of midwifery by untrained "handy-women." A resolution was moved from the chair by Miss Louie Bennett, President, calling upon the Dublin Corporation, as the local supervising authority in the city, and all County Councils who have not so far enforced the Midwives' Act, to do so at once, and appoint inspectors, so that action may be taken against the untrained women. Miss McWilliam, who proposed the resolution, said that the Act was a very important one, and although it was very imperfect, and there were things in it which should be altered, it would be better to have it put in operation at once, and then work for the necessary amendments. She said that no untrained probationer nurse or student should be sent out from the maternity hospitals to cases except with a qualified doctor or nurse, or else that a certain number of certified midwives should be employed to go out with students. Mrs. Foley (Waterford) seconding the resolution (which was passed) said that as a result of organisation amongst the midwives in Waterford city there were no "handywomen" there.

Miss Molony proposed a resolution calling on all midwives to join the Union, and said that Dublin was far behind the country in organisation. Organisation was necessary to effect improvements in the conditions of the profession. Miss Price, in answer to a question concerning the Central Midwives' Board, said that the Union, in response to the request of the Minister for Local Government, who had consulted them in accordance with the Act, had submitted the names of four practising midwives to represent them on that Board, but none of their nominees were selected. Instead, various hospital matrons had been appointed. The Union was sending a strong protest to the Minister. Attention was drawn to an allegation that "handy women" in Dublin were using false C.M.B. numbers and unauthorised signatures to insurance certificates for maternity benefit, and the secretary said that if particulars of such cases were brought to the Union suitable action would be taken. The attendance at the meeting was not as large as could be wished considering the importance of the subject.

POST-GRADUATE LECTURES.

The series of lectures organised by the Union, which have been taking place on alternate Wednesdays in the Nurses' Club, 54, Fitzwilliam Square, and which have proved very popular, were continued on April 16th, in a lecture on "Eclampsia," by Dr. Davidson, late Assistant Master of the Rotunda Hospital. The lecture was most interesting and instructive, and was greatly appreciated by the nurses present. Two further lectures will be given in May, one on "Insulin," by Dr. Henry Moore, and one on "Public Health," by Dr. M. Russell, Medical Officer of Health for Dublin. All particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, 29, South Anne Street. It is hoped to organise a further series of lectures next winter, as these seem to have filled a long-felt need.

The result of the stop-watch competition organised by the Union was announced at the previous lecture by Dr. Alice Barry. The watch was won by Miss Comyn, at present masseuse at the Ministry of Pensions Hospital, Leopardstown. A substantial sum was realised for the Union's propaganda fund.

Nurses are asked to note that a small cinderella dance is being held by the Union on Saturday, May 3rd, in the Nurses' Club, 54, Fitzwilliam Square. Tickets (price 5s. 6d., including refreshments) may be obtained either at the Club or from the Secretary, 29, South Anne Street.

K. N. PRICE, *Secretary.*

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