

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

The Monthly Meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, S.W., on May 22nd, Sir Francis Champneys, Bart., F.R.C.P., presiding.

APPLICATIONS.

The application of Midwife Lucy Belgrove Flemens (No. 51,606) for approval as a teacher was granted.

The Secretary reported the presentation by two candidates for examination of a certificate of birth which had been tampered with, and it was resolved in both instances that the candidate be not admitted to any examination of the Board prior to that of August, 1924.

Five women have been added to the Roll on the ground that they hold a certificate of having passed the Examination of the Central Midwives' Board for Scotland or for Ireland.

The applications of thirteen women for removal of their names from the Roll on the grounds of old age and ill-health were granted.

The Standing Committee reported as to an interview between Members of the Lengthening of Training Subcommittee and the Ministry of Health. It had also considered a letter from the Ministry of Health on the matter, and recommended that a reply be sent to the Ministry of Health in the terms of a letter drafted by the Chairman and approved by the Board. This was agreed.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD FOR SCOTLAND.

The Examination of the Board held simultaneously in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, and Aberdeen, has just concluded with the following results:—

Out of 112 candidates who appeared for the Examination 107 passed. Of the successful candidates 32 were trained at the Royal Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh; 21 at the Royal Maternity Hospital, Glasgow; 4 at the Maternity Hospital, Aberdeen; 13 at the Maternity Hospital, Dundee; 8 at the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, Edinburgh; 7 at the Cottage Nurses' Training Home, Govan, Glasgow; and the remainder at various recognised Institutions.

PUERPERAL MORTALITY IN SCOTLAND.

The Report of the Departmental Committee on Puerperal Morbidity and Mortality in Scotland was issued on May 26th.

The Committee was appointed by the Scottish Board of Health. It consisted of Lord Salvesen (Chairman), four medical representatives (Dr. Buist, Professor Matthew Hay, Professor Watson, and Dr. Dewar), two midwives (Miss Cairns and Miss Fraser), and one laywoman (Mrs. Mary Barbour). The purpose of the Committee was to discover the extent and causes of illness and death in motherhood in Scotland, and to seek practical means for reducing the risks of child-bearing.

The Committee find that deaths of women associated with childbirth show no signs of decrease, and they find also a general agreement that these deaths are largely preventable.

In the present state of medical knowledge the main measures towards improvement, in the Committee's view, must be sought in increased ante-natal care of the mother and due training and co-operation of the doctor and midwife. Ante-natal care is the most important avenue to the prevention of maternal morbidity and mortality, and many of the conditions that result in death may be averted or controlled by skilled attention before confinement. At

present few expectant mothers receive ante-natal care at all, and in order to make it a general practice considerable changes are required. It will lie with the training schools to secure that in future doctors and midwives are adequately trained in this work and fully impressed with its importance. Where the personal attendant is not capable of giving the skilled attention necessary, the ante-natal clinic should provide it.

MATERNITY MORTALITY IN GLAMORGAN.

At the Annual Meeting of the Glamorgan Nursing County Association, Dr. Lancaster, urging the need for more nurses and appealing for funds, said the maternity death-rate in Glamorgan was higher than it should be, and was not improving. This was due to the failure to apply the principles of antiseptics and the failure in the recognition of the dangers and emergencies of parturition. If they coupled that to the fact that some 82 per cent. of the births in Glamorgan were supervised and attended by midwives, then they would recognise that the failure of Glamorgan to cut this death-rate down was, to put it brutally, the failure on the part of the midwives.

The members of the association were afterwards entertained to tea by the Mayor.

EAST END MOTHERS' LYING-IN HOME.

The Annual General Meeting of the Governors and Subscribers was held on Wednesday, May 21st, at 46, Park Street, Hyde Park, W., by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Lionel de Rothschild, Dr. Owen Lankester, the Chairman, presiding over a large gathering.

The first business was the presentation of an illuminated testimonial and solid silver fruit bowl to Dr. Cursham Corner, who has recently retired from the position of Lecturer, after forty years' service.

The Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton, D.B.E., in proposing the principal resolution, spoke feelingly of the wonderful work the Home is doing, and pleaded eloquently for continued financial help to enable the Home to enlarge its sphere of usefulness and activity. Mr. W. McAdam Eccles, M.S., F.R.C.S., in seconding, stated that as King Edward's Hospital Fund Visitor on two occasions, he had the opportunity of testifying to the remarkable results of the training and nursing at this Institution. In 40 years, out of over 39,000 patients delivered, there had been only 60 maternal deaths; for the last four years the figures were six deaths in 9,460 deliveries, truly a wonderful record.

Other speakers were Lady Jekyll, D.B.E., Mrs. Bernard Freyberg, Mr. Samuel Greenlees, J.P., Dr. Owen Lankester, and Mr. A. O. Goodrich, J.P., L.C.C.

THE YOUNG FARMERS' CLUB.

A very interesting effort to interest young people in the movement to improve Dairy Cows is the King's Clere Young Farmers' Club in connection with which the Annual Show and Sale of Calves was held at Yew Tree Farm, King's Clere, Basingstoke, recently, under the auspices of the promoters, the United Dairies, Ltd. The President of the Club is Miss May Banbury, a farmer's daughter, aged seventeen, and the first prize was won for the third year in succession by Gerald Webb, of Baughurst, aged nine, the youngest member of the Club.

In distributing the prizes, Sir William Price remarked on the success of the Show, the excellence of the exhibits, and the keenness of the young exhibitors. It was announced that the Club had been so popular that its membership would be doubled for the coming year.

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