

# The Midwife.

## THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

### MONTHLY MEETING.

At the Monthly Meeting of the Central Midwives' Board, held on October 9th, at 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, Sir Francis Champneys, Bart., F.R.C.P., presiding, it was decided that the first paragraph of the Note at the back of the Form of sending for Medical Help (Rule E. 23, a), page 31, be amended to read as follows:—

"The medical practitioner responding to a call in the case of any emergency as defined in the Rules framed under section three 1 (e) of the Midwives Act 1902 (see Rule E. 20) will be paid his fee by the Local Supervising Authority for his attendance on this case in accordance with the scale prescribed by the Ministry of Health."

A letter was considered from Miss Puxley of the Ministry of Health requesting that the printing of the Midwives' Roll may be undertaken by the Stationery Office, the Minister anticipating that over a period of years a considerable saving in the cost of printing will be thereby effected. The Board decided that in the circumstances mentioned in Miss Puxley's letter, it is willing to enter into a contract with H.M. Stationery Office for the printing of the Midwives' Roll.

The Board decided to issue a Questionnaire to Local Supervising Authorities as to the drugs and antiseptics carried and administered by the various midwives in their areas.

## CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD FOR SCOTLAND.

### PENAL CASES.

At a meeting of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland for the Hearing of Penal Cases, Dr. Michael Dewar, Deputy-Chairman, presiding, Mrs. Eleanor Melville, Certified Midwife No. 3498, 2, Coal Wynd, Kirkcaldy, appeared in answer to charges of negligence and breaches of the Rules, and also failure to notify timeously a case of ophthalmia neonatorum, which were found proved. In order to give her an opportunity of proving amendment, sentence was postponed for reports at the end of three months from the Local Supervising Authority on her conduct and methods of practice, and also at the end of six months. Failing satisfactory reports being received, the Secretary was instructed *ipso facto* to remove her name from the Roll.

## CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD FOR IRELAND.

The Fourteenth Examination of the Central Midwives Board for Ireland was held in Cork on October 8th, and in Dublin on October 8th, 9th, and 10th, 1924. Eighty-one candidates entered in Dublin, and eleven in Cork. Of the ninety-two candidates, seventeen failed, and seventy-five passed satisfactorily, *i.e.*, Dublin.—Rotunda Hospital 24, Coombe Hospital 16, Maternity Hospital 25. Cork.—Cork Maternity Hospital 5, Cork Lying-in Hospital 4. Limerick.—Limerick Lying-in Hospital 1.

### JOINT NURSING AND MIDWIVES COUNCIL, NORTHERN IRELAND.

The above Council has resolved to take steps to effect a reciprocal arrangement with the Central Midwives' Board of the Irish Free State. It has also finally adopted the revised Rules for midwives, which have been under the consideration of a special meeting.

## A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR MIDWIFERY TRAINING.

We are asked by the Matron-in-Chief of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service to state that a very good opportunity of obtaining midwifery training under excellent conditions is now given by the Military Families Hospitals.

A limited number of General trained nurses are taken as "assistant nurses" for periods of one year, during which time they receive training, and a course of lectures to enable them to enter for the Central Midwives' Board Examination. They also receive a salary of £20 per annum, and are given quarters and board with the regular staff of the Q.A.M.F.S.N. and an allowance for laundry.

Application should be made to the Hospitals at Aldershot, Woolwich, Shorncliffe, Chatham, Devonport or Portsmouth.

## A SHOCKING STORY.

An almost incredible story was related at an inquest at Dowlais, on October 25th, upon the body of a newly-born child, which died on the previous Wednesday after having been sent to Pant Cemetery for burial, and was found to be alive by a grave-digger who heard a faint cry.

The "nurse," who attended the mother, gave evidence that it did not show any signs of life when born, or three hours later, when, after again examining it, she "gave the father a burial paper."

Dr. Francis Williams said the child died from insufficient vitality and there were no indications of exposure. It weighed only 2 lbs. 3 ozs.

The Coroner, in recording a verdict of death from prematurity, said that if the child had been taken for burial, and death had resulted from exposure, he would have called it a serious case. The important question raised by the case was whether a medical man should not see all cases before interment.

Points which will immediately present themselves in connection with the case to trained nurses are:—(1) In what wise was this baby sent for interment? It is incredible that if in a coffin an infant weighing only 2 lbs. 3 ozs. could give a sufficiently strong cry to attract the attention of a grave-digger. (2) Nurses have no authority to give "burial papers." What are the qualifications of this woman? (3) What steps did she take to resuscitate the child when born?

The sooner hapless, premature infants are protected by legislation from burial alive the better. We commend this case to the attention of the Central Midwives' Board.

## THE OLDEST LYING-IN HOSPITAL IN THE BRITISH ISLES.

At a Meeting of the Royal Society of Medicine recently, Dr. G. C. Peachey read a paper on the "Provision for Lying-in Women in London up to the Middle of the Eighteenth Century," and made the interesting statement that he had established the fact that Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital (now Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital) was the earliest Lying-in Hospital in the British Isles.

In the year that Queen Charlotte became Patron, the name of the Hospital was changed from the General Lying-in Hospital to the Queen's Lying-in Hospital, and subsequently to Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital.

An amended Royal Charter has recently been obtained changing the name of the Hospital to Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital.

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