

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

MONTHLY MEETING.

The most important business before the Central Midwives Board at its meeting on March 20th, at which Sir Francis Champneys presided, was the report made by the Standing Committee that it had had under very careful consideration the question of extending the period of midwifery training required of candidates for the Board's Examination, and that it was of opinion that the period of training should be increased; also, that it had obtained the opinions of the various Training Institutions on the matter and considered suggestions made by them; and further that it had revised the Rules so as to bring them into accord with its proposals. It was resolved:—

(a) That the period of training be increased to twelve months, except that in the case of those candidates who are qualified under Rule C.1 (2) (a) (b) (c) and (d) of the Rules referred to in the following paragraphs the period of training be increased to six months (instead of twelve).

(b) That a copy of the revised Rules initialled by the Chairman be approved, and that the Minister of Health be asked to approve the same, and to order that they should come into force on January 1st, 1926.

(The qualifications which, under Rule C.1 (2) at present permit of a shortened training were defined *faute de mieux*, but now that there is a State qualification in nursing as in midwifery, we think that in 1926 the only qualification which should entitle pupil midwives to take a shortened training is evidence of admission to the State Register of Nurses, by virtue (1) of holding a three years' certificate of training from a recognised training school, or (2) of having passed the examination for admission to the General Part of the Register of Nurses. All eligible nurses should be enrolled in the State Register of Nurses, and should not be entitled to special privilege in regard to the State Roll of Midwives unless they are so enrolled.)

APPLICATIONS.

For Approval as Lecturer.—The application of Mr. William Henry Francis Oxley, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., was granted.

For Approval as Teacher.—The application of Midwife Margaret Gilligan (No. 32220) was granted subject to conditions.

LETTER FROM ASSOCIATION OF INSPECTORS OF MIDWIVES.

This Association proposed (a) that during the year of training of pupil midwives some definite period should be set aside for the study of such subjects as Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Puerperal Fever, Pemphigus, Rashes, Breast Feeding, and the establishment of lactation in difficult cases, (b) that steps should be taken to arrange a preliminary examination of pupil midwives in general knowledge, (c) that Teachers of Midwifery should pass a special examination of the Board in addition to possessing the ordinary certificate of the Board, and a certificate of general training from some recognised training school.

The Board did not consider (a) practicable, (b) advisable at present, and did not approve (c).

THE TRAINING AND SUPPLY OF MIDWIVES.

At the Annual Meeting of the Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives held on Wednesday, March 19, at Cam House, Campden Hill, by kind permission of Lady Phillimore, it was announced that H.R.H. Princess Beatrice had graciously consented to become President of the Council in place of the late Princess Christian.

THE LIVERPOOL MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

A great welcome awaited Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, when she visited Liverpool on March 12th to lay the foundation stone of the new Maternity Hospital on Mount Pleasant, a greatly needed addition to the charities of the City for the accommodation in the present hospital is all too small for its needs. Her Royal Highness, attended by Miss Dorothy Yorke, was met at the station by the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress (Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Rushton) and drove in the Lord Mayor's State carriage to the Town Hall, where, at the foot of the main staircase, invited guests, beginning with Dr. David, Bishop of Liverpool, were presented, after which luncheon was served in the Ballroom.

The Princess and the Lord Mayor then proceeded in the State carriage to the site of the Maternity Hospital on Mount Pleasant, the public proceedings in connection with the foundation ceremony taking place at the School of Hygiene, opposite the site. Here the Princess was received by the President of the Maternity Hospital (Mr. Mark Rathbone), and then the Lord Mayor extended a welcome to her on behalf of the city, and especially thanked her Royal Highness on behalf of the Motherhood of the city for the part she would play in the day's happy ceremony.

Mr. Mark Rathbone then explained how the late Sir William Hartley had bequeathed £25,000 towards the building fund as well as acquired property at a cost of £5,000, which greatly improved the site. The Committee, when accepting the gift, undertook to raise sufficient funds to complete an adequate hospital. The appeal was launched twelve months ago, and they were now in a position to build the first portion of the hospital, which would provide 40 beds for patients and the necessary accommodation for the staff.

Purses were then received by the Princess, the total amount presented being £2,000.

A cordial vote of thanks to the Princess was proposed by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Ernest B. Royden, seconded by Mrs. Tom Temple, who referred to the part played by the hospital, not only in the care of the mothers, but in the teaching of midwifery to students and in training the great number of nurses and midwives, who had subsequently gone out to all parts of the world. Mrs. Temple emphasised the need for many more subscribers to complete the £100,000 required and said that out of a population of three-quarters of a million the subscribers numbered only 800.

On crossing the road the Princess was warmly cheered and after Mr. Tom Temple, Chairman of the Building Committee, in a brief speech, said that those present were assembled to inaugurate a great work, Princess Mary accepted an ivory trowel and mallet from the architect, Mr. Gilbert Fraser, F.R.I.B.A., and spread the mortar on the lower stone, the upper one containing coins, current newspapers, and a description of the building, being then lowered into position, when in a clear voice Her Royal Highness, tapping the stone three times, declared it to be well and truly laid.

The stone bears the inscription:—"This foundation stone was laid by Her Royal Highness Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, March 12th, 1924."

At the conclusion of the ceremony the Princess visited the present Maternity Hospital on Brownlow Hill, where she was received by the Matron, Miss Cawty, and visited the wards, expressing much interest in the work of the institution.

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