

The Midwife.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

MONTHLY MEETING.

At the June meeting of the Central Midwives' Board a letter was received from the College of Nursing, Ltd., expressing the opinion of members that the College should be directly represented on the Board, and stating that the Council would be pleased to appoint a deputation to attend before the Board if thought desirable. The Board expressed its willingness to receive a deputation, and appointed July 2nd for the interview.

A letter was received from the Executive Secretary of the Society of Medical Officers of Health with reference to increased Representation on the Board. Consideration of the letter was deferred to a later date.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD FOR SCOTLAND.

At a recent meeting of the Board Dr. James Haig Ferguson, in the Chair, Sir Archibald Buchan-Hepburn, Bart., was appointed Deputy-Chairman in place of the late Dr. Michael Dewar.

Intimation was made that the Scottish Board of Health had approved the new Rules for extended training of midwifery nurses, which come into force on May 1st, 1926, and apply to all persons commencing midwifery training thereafter.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD SAORSTAT EIREANN.

The Sixteenth Examination of the Central Midwives' Board Saorstát Eireann was held in Cork on June 17th and in Dublin on June 17th, 18th, and 19th, 1925. Ninety-two candidates entered in Dublin and fourteen in Cork. Of the ninety-six candidates, eight failed, one did not attend, one was disqualified, and eighty-six passed satisfactorily.

BIRTH CONTROL.

The report issued by the National Council of Public Morals upon the Ethics of Birth Control is, says *Time and Tide*, valuable in that it provides definite statements of the various points of view held in this controversy. The real problem is three-sided. It first involves the transference of a most important human function from the sphere of the accidental to that controlled by the human will. In its implication that we should bring children into the world by conscious and deliberate choice rather than by the hazard of circumstance, birth control is the inevitable result of the extended education and awakened social sense of women, and is beyond controversy. But the second issue concerns the manner in which that choice may be exercised, and here we are apt to find in most discussions a vehemence about morals and a vagueness about methods that reveals the extreme divergence of both physiological and ethical opinion which still exists. Thirdly the issue is complicated by the tangle of moral, national, economic and eugenic considerations which goes by the name of the Population Question. This concerns some of the motives of birth control, and is in itself profoundly important, although its inclusion in discussion either of principle or of method is oft times to obscure the inquiry. We of this generation pride ourselves on our frankness but we none of us find it easy to discuss birth control without lapsing into vagueness just where, if we are to reach the root of the matter, we must face facts and not shirk detailed discussion.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

The Annual Report of Queen Charlotte's Hospital states that 123 Pupil Midwives sat for the Central Midwives' Board Examination and there were only 4 failures, the percentage of failures being 3.2 as compared with a percentage of 22.2 over the whole country.

The proposal of the Central Midwives' Board to increase the period of training for Midwives—referred to in the last Report, has now been approved by the Ministry of Health and it will shortly be necessary for Midwives to undergo a training of 12 months instead of 6, unless they hold a certificate of three years' training in general nursing, in which case the period will be 6 months instead of 4 as hitherto. The Committee are considering the question of fees for the longer period of training. It will be necessary to make a considerable increase, and it is feared that this will have the effect of reducing the number of candidates entering for training below the requirements of the Hospital.

EAST END MOTHER'S HOME.

The East End Mothers' Home, 396, Commercial Road, E., is issuing a Special and Urgent Appeal for £14,500, and we hope they will get it.

Miss Margaret Anderson, the Matron, whose Report is always worth reading, writes:—

"Not the least interesting part of our work is teaching, and it is delightful to see pupils gradually turning into midwives. Seven monthly nurses and fifty-eight midwives have received training this year. Our aim is to give the nurse such practical experience as will enable her to skilfully manage the normal, to recognise the abnormal and to deal efficiently with emergencies. Our pupils have had exceptional opportunities of gaining this knowledge, for 2,118 patients have been delivered, 4,839 visits have been made by expectant mothers, over 200 premature babies have been reared, and twin babies, by the careful feeding of the mothers, have been breast fed, besides Post-natal work, for every mother and baby is seen again within six weeks after the confinement. Therefore our nurses have had a fair amount of practical demonstration. We instil theory and patience and the C.M.B. rules in season and out of season, and our pupil midwives have done well in their examinations. Many are already hard at work, and their reports are excellent, not to say flattering."

She also writes:—

"A word there is the angels know and speak to one another, the highest name, the holiest name, on earth we call it "mother." She has the mystery of life, she has looked death in the eyes, fought with him valiantly time and again and snatched from his hands the prize. To help the mothers is why you support the Home, and ours is the vocation and privilege to assist in this work and to be able to tell you that through the mercy of Almighty God, and your help, we have safely accomplished the delivery of 2,118 mothers during 1924. Every mother has been spared to her children, although often it has been a hard contest. We have witnessed quiet victories, great sacrifice of self and noble acts of heroism in this mighty work, for of all brave deeds there are none so brave as the bearing of children."

"TRUBY-KING" METHODS.

After a series of winter lectures to the Staff of the Motherwell Carnegie Child Welfare Centre and the Burgh of Motherwell and Wishaw District Nurses, &c., Miss J. B. N. Paterson has been practically demonstrating "Truby-King" methods to the nurses in the Burgh during the month of June.

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