

The Midwife.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

THE MONTHLY MEETING.

The monthly meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, S.W., on January 8th, Sir Francis Champneys, Bart., M.P., Chairman of the Board, presiding.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Consideration was given to a letter from the Ministry of Health, enclosing a Report made by Dr. Janet Turnbull on the training of midwives at the Swindon Maternity Home, and it was agreed that the Home be allowed to train twelve pupils during 1925.

In reply to a letter from the Ministry of Health suggesting a further alteration in the new Rules as to training, it was agreed that a reply be sent in the terms of the letter drafted by the Chairman and approved by the Board.

APPLICATIONS.

For Approval as Lecturer.—The application of Dr. Charles Llewellyn Lander was granted.

For Approval as Teacher.—The applications of Midwives Mary Elizabeth Morris (No. 50466), Elizabeth Milligan (No. 48851), Annie Minnie Stringer (No. 37093), Ethel Stubbs (No. 52006), Blanche Julia Whitmarsh (No. 32824)—approved as Assistant to Miss Mackenzie—were granted subject to conditions.

For Removal from the Roll.—The applications of three midwives for the removal of their names from the Roll were granted.

DATES OF MEETINGS.

The dates of the Ordinary Board Meetings for the remainder of 1925 were considered. It was agreed that the usual day of meeting of the Board be the first Thursday in each month (except August and September) during the current year.

THE FALL IN THE BIRTH-RATE.

While the Registrar-General reports a lower birth-rate during the past year, it is interesting to record that in Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital, Marylebone Road, 1,930 patients were treated last year and 1,929 children were born. On one day recently a baby was born for every hour of the day.

In order to cope with the great increase in the Ante-Natal work and Child Welfare work an extension of the temporary Ante-Natal Department has just been made, but the Hospital is much hampered in its work by the Mortgage debt of £8,000 to pay off which the sum of £3,000 is still needed.

GLAXO.

Nurses and Midwives will be glad to know that Modified Milk in dried form can now be obtained so modified that when re-constituted with hot boiled water it gives a milk identical in composition with human milk. This is our old and proved friend Glaxo, in the form known as "Prescription Glaxo." Those who care to test it can obtain a sample tin free by sending a professional card to Glaxo (Dept. G.), 56, Osnaburgh Street, London, N.W.1.

A WELL-DESERVED HONOUR.

Nurses and midwives who know how much Dr. Truby King has done to diminish the infantile death rate, increase the knowledge of periculture, and to raise the standard of health by correct feeding in infancy and childhood, will note with pleasure the following announcement in the New Year Honours List.

KNIGHTS BACHELOR.

Frederick Truby King, M.B., C.M.G., director of the Child Welfare Division of the Department of Health, Dominion of New Zealand.

BIRTH INJURIES TO THE CHILD.

Sir Frederick Truby King in his annual report to the Director-General of Health in New Zealand for the year ended March 31st, 1924, writes:—Obstetricians in general have always tended to make light of birth injuries to the child, but such views are not seriously tenable in the light of modern investigations and knowledge. I feel bound to insist on these points, in the interest of the child, which have been so strangely ignored when dealing with the saving of some immediate pain to the mother and hastening delivery. It may well be asked why due prominence has not been given to this matter sooner in New Zealand—why there has been so much delay on our part. The only answer to this question is that until now there never appeared to be a suitable opportunity for dealing adequately with a subject bristling with so many difficulties and complications, and bound to arouse opposition and misunderstandings. The first stumbling-block was war. Early in the war, Dr. Valentine, as Chief Health Officer, wrote and drew my attention to the infrequent use of forceps in the St. Helens Hospitals, and the very great frequency in private practice. He said that this appeared to him very serious from the point of view of the mothers; and, knowing my opinion as to the harm done to the child by routine forcible delivery, he wanted to confer with me on the matter.

All other questions bearing on child welfare are so insignificant as compared with the transcendently important issue under consideration that there is no call for dwelling on them at the moment; but I feel bound to draw attention again to the small progress made in the development of open-air schools and in the provision of adequate playgrounds and due facilities for bathing and swimming. These defects, and the failure of the parents and the schools to make any appreciable effort in the direction of preventing wrong feeding-habits (including the taking of food and sweets between meals, and the lack of brown bread, raw fruit, and green vegetables in the daily diet) are serious evils. Unfortunately the public is more than apathetic, in spite of the devoted efforts of the Director of Dental Hygiene to bring about reform for the sake of saving the teeth. One ray of light in this connection must be acknowledged, and that is the yearly illumination which comes from health week, in which the municipal and Government authorities and the public in general take an increasing interest.

THE MOST EFFECTIVE BABY WEEK CAMPAIGN.

The Astor Silver Challenge Shield, which is awarded annually by the National Baby Week Council for the most effective Baby Week Campaign, has been won for 1924 by Leicester Health and Baby Week Committee, and will be publicly presented in the near future.

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