

The Midwife.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD. MONTHLY MEETING.

The Monthly Meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, S.W., on March 5th.

A letter was received from the Minister of Health referring to previous correspondence relative to the printing of the Midwives' Roll, and inquiring as to the present position with regard to the matter. It was decided that the printing of the Midwives' Roll for 1924 be now proceeded with.

A letter was read from the Minister of Health approving the Rules as submitted in their final amended form. It was decided to thank the Minister for his letter and to inform him that the Rules, as a whole, will be submitted for approval before May 1st, 1926, together with any amendments which may be proposed in the other sections of the Rules.

The Board, in reply to a letter from Dr. Blair Bell, asking it to dispense the Liverpool Royal Infirmary from the obligation to provide five outdoor cases for each pupil midwife if that Institution be approved, replied that it did not see its way to grant such dispensation, and that this training is carried out without difficulty in many institutions.

The question of what action should be taken with regard to any possible falsified Certificates of Birth or of Baptism was left to the Chairman to decide.

The Ministry of Health has nominated Dr. F. N. K. Menzies as a Member of the Central Midwives' Board in succession to the Lady Mabelle Egerton, and Miss L. Greaves, Matron of the City Road Maternity Hospital, in succession to Miss Le Geyt.

The Chairman paid a high tribute to the work of Miss Rosalind Paget on the Board, of which she had been a member since its formation in 1902, during which time she had only missed one meeting, and that through illness. She will be greatly missed.

FEBRUARY EXAMINATION.

The List of Successful Candidates at the February Examination of the Central Midwives Board now published shows that 598 candidates were examined and 474 passed the examiners. The percentage of failure was 20.7.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A MIDWIFE TO OBEY THE RULES.

In reply to an enquiry by a Local Supervising Authority through its Medical Officer of Health the Central Midwives' Board has stated that the view of the Board is that if a Midwife acts as such she is not relieved of her responsibility to obey the rules governing the practice of midwives because she has failed to comply with the requirements of Section 10 of the Midwives Act, 1902.

The Board does not think that it is necessary for the Local Supervising Authority to send to each midwife in its area, whether practising or not, the forms which practising midwives have to use.—If a midwife practises as such it is her duty to apply to the Local Supervising Authority for the forms.

If a midwife who does not usually practise as such, acts in an emergency, she may, of course, not have the proper forms by her—but she should do the best she can, and if she does that, the Board would not penalise her for technical offences which were solely due to an emergency.

It is suggested that the Local Supervising Authority should consider the advisability of prosecuting midwives, who, being in practice or intending to practise, do not comply with the requirements of Section 10 of the Midwives Act, 1902.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD FOR SCOTLAND. PENAL CASES.

At a special meeting of the Board for the Hearing of Penal Cases—Dr. James Haig Ferguson in the Chair—the name of Mrs. Ellen Moncur, Certified Midwife, No. 770, S.S. Glasgow, was removed from the Roll for failure to take and record the pulse and temperature of her patients, and for other breaches of the Rules.

At the same diet Mrs. Sarah Brown, Certified Midwife, No. 1394, appeared in answer to charges of neglect, etc., 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.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD SAORSTAT EIREANN.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board Saorstát Eireann was held on February 19th, at 5 p.m., at the offices of the Board, 33, St. Stephen's Green.

The following members were present:—Senator Gogarty, M.D., F.R.C.S.I., Sir William Smyly, M.D., Sir Edward Coey Bigger, M.D., Mrs. Blunden, Miss A. Michie, Miss Keating, Miss O'Carroll, Professor Corby, M.D., and Mr. Stafford.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held before the General Meeting. Various bills and claims having been submitted for payment were passed, and cheques drawn for the corresponding amounts.

Sir Edward Coey Bigger was elected as Chairman, and Senator Gogarty as Vice-Chairman.

The question of adopting a badge and uniform for Midwives was under discussion. It was pointed out that while the members were of opinion that it would be desirable to have a badge and uniform for Midwives, the matter would have to be postponed pending the introduction of necessary legislation by the Government, as the Act as it stands contains no provision for the issue of a badge and uniform, the English and Scottish Boards being in the same position.

On the proposal of Miss Michie, seconded by Sir William Smyly, the following Resolution was drafted. Passed unanimously:—

"That in the opinion of the Central Midwives Board Saorstát Eireann, it would be desirable that a special badge and uniform for Midwives should be authorised by the Government."

It was decided that a copy should be sent to the Local Government Department for necessary action.

After further routine business had been transacted, the Meeting adjourned.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

In Memo. 100/M.C.W. the Ministry of Health has issued Specimen Record Forms, which must be of great use in compiling Records upon a systematic basis.

POST-GRADUATE WEEK FOR MIDWIVES.

The Thirteenth Annual Post Graduate Week will be held at the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, Lambeth, S.E.1, from May 25th to May 29th.

LECTURES ON HEALTH.

A series of lectures on the laws which govern health, and on mothercraft were delivered recently by Miss J. B. N. Paterson for the M.O.H. for Durham County. Lectures were given at Houghton-le-Spring; Tow Law, at the opening of the new centre for Tow Law and Thornley, and at Bishop Auckland; also at the Training Colleges at Darlington and Durham.

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