

The Midwife.

MIDWIVES AND MATERNITY HOMES (SCOTLAND).

A Bill to amend the Midwives (Scotland) Act, 1915, and to provide for the registration and inspection of maternity homes, and for purposes connected therewith is now before Parliament. It is presented by Mr. Barclay-Harvey, supported by Sir George Berry, Mr. James Stewart, Sir Robert Hamilton, Mr. Skelton, Major MacAndrew, Mr. Westwood, and Colonel Fremantle.

The Bill is much on the lines of the Amending Act of the English Act passed last year. It prohibits the practice of midwifery by any person, male or female, with the exception of medical students and midwifery pupils from attending a woman in child birth, other than under the direction and personal supervision of a duly qualified medical practitioner under penalty on summary conviction of a fine not exceeding £10.

In regard to the publication of the Roll of Midwives, the following provision has been adopted:—

5.—(1) The Central Midwives Board for Scotland may if they think fit cause the roll of midwives to be divided into two parts, of which one shall contain the names of all those practising midwives whose names have been supplied to the Board by local supervising authorities in the month of January in each year in accordance with the provisions of section sixteen of the principal Act and shall be published annually, and the other shall contain the names of all other persons who are entitled to be on the roll and shall be published at such intervals, not exceeding five years, as the Scottish Board of Health may determine.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

THE FEBRUARY EXAMINATION.

At the February Examination of the Central Midwives Board 560 candidates were examined and 436 passed. The percentage of failures was 22.1.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD FOR SCOTLAND.

PENAL CASES.

At a special Meeting of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland for the hearing of penal cases, Dr. James Haig Ferguson in the Chair, Mrs. Rose Birchall, Certified Midwife No. 2837, 5, Vesalius Street, Shettleston, Glasgow, was cited to appear for failure to take and record the pulse and temperature of her patients, and for other breaches of the Rules. Miss Barker, Assistant Inspector of Midwives for Glasgow, was present in support of the charges.

The Board found the charges to be proved, and instructed the Secretary to remove the name of Rose Birchall from the Roll, and to cancel her certificate.

At the same diet, Mrs. Catherine Taggart, Certified Midwife No. 3002, 7, McDougall Street, Parkhead, Glasgow, was charged with being guilty of negligence, breaches of the Rules, and that she proved herself incapable of carrying out the same. Further, failure to intimate intention to practise as required by the Act. The Board found the charges proved, and instructed the Secretary to remove her name from the Roll and to cancel her certificate and,

further, to prohibit her from attending women in child-birth in any other capacity.

LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE MIDWIVES' ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the Association was held at the County Assembly Rooms, Leicester, on March 9th, 1927.

The County Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Fairer) was in the chair. In moving the adoption of the Annual Report Dr. Fairer mentioned that the Infant Mortality rate for the past year in Leicestershire was the lowest up to the present. 58 as compared with 70 for the whole of England and Wales. A good deal of the credit for this he attributed to the work of the midwives.

Mr. Clare seconded the adoption of the Report.

Mrs. Tarleton Hodgson gave an interesting talk on "the things that matter," and urged the midwives to cultivate cheerfulness as one of the important things in their work.

The Mayoress, Mrs. T. W. Walker, also spoke, and the President, Miss Pell-Smith, detailed the objects of the Association.

During the year the lectures were marked by an increased interest and a larger attendance of members.

Dr. Cairns moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman and speakers, which was seconded by Miss Gardner.

Tea, provided by the Committee, was then served. The geniality of the Chairman and excellence of all the speeches made a most delightful meeting. A large number of Midwives and friends were present.

Miss Patey's work as Secretary has done much to help the work of the Association.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

Miss Mary Beard, Adviser in Nursing, Rockefeller Foundation, who in 1924-1925 spent seven months in making a study of Maternal care in England, especially as it pertains to nurses and midwives, and also paid brief visits to seven European countries to compare their experience with midwives with that of England, has been contributing an interesting series of articles to *The Canadian Nurse* and *The Public Health Nurse*, U.S.A.

She writes:—

"The Central Midwives Board is a representative English body, open-minded, fair, kind and expressing in an unusual degree the finest ideals of midwives. Listening to the proceedings of the penal sessions of the Central Midwives Board, I thought of many devoted sessions similar to these through which many of the very members present that day have sat patiently working out the standards necessary to raise the life of a midwife to an economic level where proper compensation for reasonable hours and conditions of work will be attained. With the picture of these penal sessions in my mind is another vivid and unforgettable scene. A midwife took me with her to a delivery in a London home. The technique of the delivery was beautiful, but it was not that which is so unforgettable—it is what we must call the psychology of a midwife that made me long to have certified midwives for the mothers of my own country. From the moment of the midwife's arrival in the small attic room a quiet assurance seemed to descend upon the patient and to give her courage, control and endurance such as she had not had before."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)