

# The Midwife.

## CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

The Report of the work of the Central Midwives Board for the year ended March 31st, 1934, as usual, contains much interesting information. We extract the following:—

“The total number of midwives practising during 1933, according to the returns made by Local Supervising Authorities, is 15,442, of whom 14,905, or 96.5 per cent., are trained and 537, or 3.5 per cent., untrained. For the purposes of comparison it may be stated that the total number of practising midwives during 1932 was 15,182 of whom 14,547, or 95.8 per cent., were trained and 635, or 4.2 per cent., untrained.

### EXAMINATIONS.

“The number of candidates entering for the examinations during the year under review was 3,862 as against 3,539 in the previous year, an increase of 323.

“Of the 3,829 candidates who completed their examination 2,997 passed, the corresponding figures for the year ended 31st March, 1933, being 3,501 and 2,883.

“Of the 2,997 successful candidates 2,485, or 82.9 per cent., were admitted to examination on a reduced period of midwifery training by virtue of having undergone general training recognised by the Board.

“The percentage of failure was 21.7 as against 17.7 in the previous year.

### FALSIFIED DOCUMENTS.

“During the year four candidates for examination presented certificates of birth, baptism or marriage which had been falsified as regard dates. The entry of three candidates was postponed for a period and in one case the candidate was prohibited from entering for examination at any time.

“In one case, that of a woman who had presented a falsified marriage certificate, the Board instituted a prosecution. The case was tried at the Central Criminal Court and the woman who submitted the falsified certificate was found guilty under the Perjury Act, 1911, but having regard to all the circumstances a light sentence, that of one day's imprisonment, was passed. The woman in question did not desire to proceed with her application for admission to examination.

“Many other candidates submitted certificates of birth, baptism or marriage which had been altered as regards particulars of a different nature, *e.g.*, Christian names, but in these cases the candidates were allowed to enter on presenting fresh and unaltered certificates after warning letters had been addressed to them.

### MIDWIFE-TEACHERS' EXAMINATION.

“During the year the third Midwife-Teachers' examination, conducted under the authority of the Board, was held.

“Thirty-five candidates presented themselves for the first part of the examination, of whom 14 were successful.

“The 14 candidates who were successful at the first part of the examination, and the candidate who was excused that part of the examination as she had failed only in the teaching part of the examination in the previous year, presented themselves for the second part of the examination and of these 11 were successful.

“Of the 11 candidates who passed, six were existing teachers, and of the candidates who failed, two were existing teachers.

### PENAL CASES.

“During the year 16 midwives were dealt with by the Board under its penal powers on charges of malpractice, negligence or misconduct.

“These 16 cases resulted in the immediate removal from the Roll of the names of seven women, of whom two were prohibited from attending women in childbirth in any capacity.

### APPORTIONMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTY COUNCILS AND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILS UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE MIDWIVES ACT, 1902, AND SECTION 2 OF THE MIDWIVES ACT, 1918.

“The levies on the County Councils and County Borough Councils of England and Wales to meet the deficiency in the Board's revenue for the year 1933, collected by apportionment between the various Councils, amounted to £4,068 16s. 9d.

### QUALIFIED RECIPROCITY FOR REGISTRATION OF MIDWIVES IN ENGLAND AND NEW SOUTH WALES.

The Board has decided the conditions upon which reciprocity for registration of midwives in England and New South Wales may be arranged.

### PROSECUTION UNDER SECTION 1 (1) OF MIDWIVES ACT, 1902.

“A particularly flagrant case of a breach of Section 1 (1) of the Midwives Act, 1902, arose during the year, an uncertified woman having obtained a post in a maternity home on the false representation that she was a certified midwife. The Board undertook a prosecution and, despite great difficulty in the service of the summons and the execution of a warrant which was issued, the woman was eventually brought before the Court who imposed the maximum penalty, *viz.*, a fine of £5, 28 days' imprisonment being ordered in default of payment.

### PRACTICAL INSTRUCTION OF PUPIL MIDWIVES IN VENEREAL DISEASES.

“During the year the Board has had under consideration the practical instruction of pupil midwives in Venereal Diseases. . . .

“The replies to the Board's inquiry received showed that in the large majority of cases pupil midwives either attended Venereal Disease Clinics or Hospitals at which Venereal Disease cases were taken or that arrangements for them to do so would be made.

### USE OF CHLOROFORM CAPSULES BY MIDWIVES.

“The Board was asked by two Local Supervising Authorities whether midwives were permitted to administer chloroform capsules to their patients, and they were informed that as the Rules stand at present the administration of chloroform in any form by midwives, otherwise than under the direction and personal supervision of a duly qualified medical practitioner, was regarded as treatment outside their province, and that a wide and extended trial of chloroform capsules, under medical supervision, must be carried out before sufficient evidence can be accumulated to convince the Board that their use by midwives can, with safety, be sanctioned.

### SIGNING OF CERTIFICATE OF TRAINING FALSE IN CERTAIN RESPECTS.

“During the year the Board's attention was drawn to the case of an approved teacher who had signed the certificates of training in respect of four candidates for examination,

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