

1. The General Nursing Council for England and Wales is charged with the disciplinary control of State Registered Nurses. Will this be the case in regard to the "First Certificate" given by the Central Midwives Board after a course which it has defined and prescribed for pupil midwives, but which does not admit its possessor to the Roll of Midwives, or will they be summoned to account by the General Nursing Council?

2. The Midwives Act, 1936, provides that on or after a certain date in which Section 6 (1) of the Act is applied to the area of any authority, or to any county, or to any county district, contained therein, any woman neither certified under the principal Act nor registered in the general part of the Register of Nurses required to be kept under the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, or a male person, receives any remuneration for attending in that area, or district as a nurse on a woman in childbirth, or at any time during the ten days immediately after childbirth, that person shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding ten pounds.

Exit Sarah Gamp. She will no longer, as an ignorant handy-woman, be able to enter the lying-in chamber and bring illness and perhaps death in her train. True it is that some handy-women have been useful members of the community, and much valued attendants. Nevertheless, it was high time that the handy-woman, covered often by the medical practitioner, should be eliminated and replaced by the woman with training and skill; and many mothers will owe a debt of gratitude to the Central Midwives Board for tackling and dealing with the question.

The point is, will there be enough State Registered Maternity Nurses and State Certified Midwives to go round, and what is to happen if one is urgently wanted and is not forthcoming? Certainly anyone in an emergency, though she be unskilled, may do her best, but having done it she must retire.

For the first time in this freedom-loving country, patients both rich and poor are to be prohibited by law from employing untrained maternity nurses. With the State, and with the Nursing and Midwifery Professions, remains the problem of providing a supply equal to the demand. How is this to be done?

These points are presented for your consideration.

#### DISCUSSION.

A lively discussion followed, from which it appeared that the relations of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales and the Central Midwives Board would be peculiarly difficult if a registered nurse, holding the first certificate of the Central Midwives Board, were accused of an offence requiring investigation and possibly disciplinary action. Before which body would she be summoned to appear? The General Nursing Council, which had neither defined her training, nor certified her in maternity nursing, or the Central Midwives Board, which had done both these things, but whose authority in the Midwives Acts was limited to State Certified Midwives? Further, the Central Midwives Board had no authority to remove the name of a nurse from the State Register of Nurses.

The curriculum of training for Maternity Nurses should have been defined by the General Nursing Councils. They had, however, neglected their opportunity in this relation.

It was suggested that the General Nursing Council for England and Wales and the Central Midwives Board should be asked to set up a joint committee to deal with such cases, but it was pointed out that this would not be a statutory body, and the accused person might question its authority.

The President said she believed the intentions of the Central Midwives Board were excellent, but the Nurses' organisations had not been consulted as to the new Rules of the Central Midwives Board, and it was agreed to represent to the Board that Registered General Nurses

would have been grateful had this been done in so far as the Rules affected Registered Nurses.

The President said further that it was important that Registered General Nurses who undertook maternity work should know what authority would deal with them if they were accused, possibly unjustly, of serious offences, such as procuring abortion, or the wrongful administration of drugs.

All present were agreed that the situation at present was exceedingly complicated and needed clarifying.

### CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

In the November Examination of the Central Midwives Board, 708 first entries passed the examiners, and 140 re-entries. The percentage of failures of first entries was 23.5, of re-entries 44.7, of all candidates 28.0.

#### MIDWIFE-TEACHERS' EXAMINATION, 1937.

##### Part II.

The following candidates have been successful in passing Part II of the Midwife-Teachers' Examination, under the Authority of the Central Midwives Board.

Dorothy Mary Barber, *Maternity Nurse and Deputy Assistant District Coach, Guy's Hospital.*

Gladys May Betts, *Labour Ward Sister, Lewisham Hospital.*  
Margaret Brooksbank, *District Teacher, Dudley Road Hospital, Birmingham.*

Mildred Mary Buchanan, *Assistant Matron and Sister-Tutor, Belfast Royal Maternity Hospital.*

Mary Violet Gantry, *Maternity Departmental Sister, Dartford County Hospital.*

Ivy Rita Germain, *Ward Sister, St. Giles's Hospital, Cambridge.*

Zita Mary Goodall, *Private Ward Sister, Sussex Maternity Hospital.*

Gertrude Ellen Hall, *Sister, City of London Maternity Hospital.*

Marjorie Alice Hallsworth, *Assistant Matron, Herts County Maternity Home.*

Henrietta Henderson, *Staff Midwife, City of London Maternity Hospital.*

Hilda Hesse, *Late Sister-in-Charge, Liverpool Maternity Hospital Annexe.*

Margaret Emily Hollingworth, *District Sister, St. John's Home, Millwall.*

Marjorie Georgina Holt, *Late Assistant Sister-Superintendent and District Sister, Queen Mary's Hospital for the East End.*

Daisy James, *Maternity Ward Sister, Withington Hospitals, Manchester.*

Dorothy Yolande Kay, *Late Maternity Ward Sister, Guy's Hospital.*

Flora McDonald, *Supervisor of Midwives and County Superintendent of Nurses for East Suffolk.*

Jane May McLean, *Maternity Sister, Maternity Nursing Association.*

Annie Maria McManus, *Ward Sister, Gloucester District Nursing Society.*

Eliza Ann Moseley, *Assistant Matron, Royal Derbyshire Nursing Association.*

Mary Agnes Reynolds, *Senior Assistant Sister-Tutor, Liverpool Maternity Hospital.*

Jane Stephenson, *Sister-in-Charge, Maternity Department, Smithdown Road Hospital, Liverpool.*

Kathleen Ella Troth, *Labour Ward and Ward Sister, Salvation Army Mothers' Hospital.*

Olive Wainwright, *Maternity Ward Sister, Salisbury General Infirmary.*

Joan Renée West, *Assistant Sister-Tutor, Queen Charlotte's Hospital.*

Mary Williams, *Staff Midwife, Middlesex Hospital.*

#### LAST WORD FOR 1937.

"Gude nicht an' joy be wi' ye a."—*Lady Nairn.*