

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

The Central Midwives Board has unanimously re-elected Sir Comyns Berkeley, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., F.C.O.G., as its Chairman for the year ending March 31st, 1939.

Miss G. A. B. Cameron, M.B.E. (Public Health Department, Newcastle-on-Tyne), has been appointed to fill a vacancy in the membership of the Board.

The remaining members, all of whom have been re-appointed for the year ending March 31st, 1939, are as follows: Mr. J. Bright Banister, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., F.C.O.G.; Councillor R. W. Brosch; Dr. J. J. Buchan, M.D., D.P.H.; Miss K. V. B. Coni; Dr. W. Allen Daley, M.D., D.P.H.; Mr. H. A. de Montmorency, O.B.E.; Miss E. E. Greaves, M.B.E.; Mr. Eardley Holland, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P., F.C.O.G.; Miss A. A. I. Pollard, M.B.E.; Lady Richmond; Miss K. J. Stephenson, C.B.E., J.P.; and Mr. Arnold Walker, M.B., F.R.C.S., M.C.O.G.

Reverting to the Report of the Central Midwives Board for the year 1937, Post Certificated Courses and Government Grants are of interest.

Post-certificate Courses.

Under Section 7 of the Midwives Act, 1936, Local Super-vising Authorities are under an obligation to arrange for all practising midwives in their area to take post-certificate courses, and the Central Midwives Board have now, with the approval of the Minister, made rules in pursuance of that Section prescribing the nature and the extent of these courses. All practising midwives are required to take these courses at least once in seven years with a view to maintaining contact with modern theory and practice.

Government Grants.

Following on these changes, the Minister of Health has considered, in consultation with the Treasury, the grants payable in aid of the training of persons intending to practise as midwives and a Memorandum (211/MCW) has been issued to Local Authorities setting out the conditions upon which grants will in future be paid. These grants are payable to midwifery training institutions recognised by the Central Midwives Board at the rate of £20 per pupil for each period of six months' training and £52 10s. for the eighteen months period. Proportionate grant will also be payable in respect of post-certificate courses.

The object of the grant is to stimulate the supply of fully qualified practising midwives and, therefore, all those desirous of obtaining grant and of securing the consequential reduction in the fees payable to the training institutions must declare their intention to practise.

The opportunity has also been taken to modify the previous requirement that Health Visitors should possess the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board. In view of the already long training imposed on Health Visitors, it has been decided that in future their midwifery training need only extend to Part I. of the new training course for midwives. Grant will be payable accordingly in respect of this portion of a Health Visitor's training at the rate applicable to intending midwives.

There are two points which we are of opinion require attention: (1) That the shorter training of six months permitted to certain candidates before they can enter for the first part of the examination should be restricted to trained registered nurses registered on the general part of a State Register of Nurses, as only the General Nursing Councils are authorised to define what constitutes a trained nurse. And, secondly, what authority is to deal with women

otherwise untrained, who pass the first examination only of the Central Midwives Board, should the question of disciplinary action arise? Not the Central Midwives Board, which deals only with State Certified Midwives, and not the General Nursing Councils, which have jurisdiction only over State Registered Nurses. Presumably, sooner or later, a test case will arise, when the position will be clarified.

NEW MIDWIFERY.

Under the Midwives Act of 1936, the London County Council was required to secure an adequate service of salaried midwives either by arrangement with the voluntary organisations or by itself employing such midwives. Under the new scheme the voluntary organisations will continue to employ about 124 midwives and the L.C.C. will appoint some 47 salaried midwives in its own employ. Uniform maximum fees will be charged throughout London, and will be abated by the Almoners according to the patients' circumstances. Grants made by the Council to the voluntary organisations will amount to from £18,000 to £20,000 a year subject to certain deductions.

THE EAST END MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

The Report for the year ending December 31st, 1937, of the East End Maternity Hospital, Commercial Road, E., contains as usual the record of an invaluable work, of which Miss Margaret Anderson, O.B.E., the Lady Superintendent, has been an inspiring force. The Annual General Meeting, to be held on May 10th, prevents its report in this issue of the Journal, but Miss Anderson's report gives an insight into the activities of the Hospital.

REPORT OF THE LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

Would that Time were not so energetic and would follow the poet's plea:

"Time, you old gipsy man
Will you not stay?
Put up your caravan
Just for one day."

But no, he gallops on before we can think and as age advances it means that in a day has to be crammed in, what a week used to hold.

Time in his passage has taken our beloved Lady Jekyll. She had a great personality, and was so loyal and faithful and many a rough place has she smoothed for us, for she has governed us since the beginning, and was always our loving friend and patron. In the ward named after her we are honoured by having a beautiful plaque erected to her sweet memory.

The Midwives Act of 1936, new London County Council regulations, and the Central Midwives Board's mandates all came into force this year; therefore how the future will map out is a bit of a problem, but the longer we live the more sure we become that the only certain thing about life is its uncertainty and that nothing is won without honest toil—toil of body and mind.

Therefore, the year 1938 begins in a fog through which we cannot see clearly, therefore can make no plans for the future and the only thing to do is to wait and see and just remember that "Sufficient unto the day is the work thereof," and also that finally all will be well.

The future is dim, but the past is outstanding and the pioneer work done by this Hospital is great. Domiciliary work was started in Stepney by us, and we created the idea that mothers in childbirth in some cases should be

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)