

# The Midwife.

## CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

Report of Standing Committee which met on Thursday, July 4th, 1940.

*Applications from Registered Medical Practitioners for Approval as Lecturer.*—The Secretary reported that the following applications had been granted:—

Dorothy Heynemann, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.), Halifax Training Scheme.

J. W. Joule, M.D., M.R.C.P., Kingston County Hospital.

*Applications from State Certified Midwives for Approval as Teacher.*—The Secretary reported the approval granted to the following teachers under emergency powers:—

Winifred Fenning, Mile End (L.C.C.) Hospital.

Dilys Myfanwy Eley, Mary Ann Tomlinson, May Wilde, Abel Collin Maternity Hospital, Nottingham.

Annie Vera Lawson, St. Chad's Hospital, Birmingham.

Elsie Burgess, Edna May Lloyd, Norah Monica Ward, Nether Edge Hospital, Sheffield.

Lilian Benjamin, Rotherham Municipal General Hospital.

Blanch Burke, Grace Caldon, Amy Dorothy Coulson,

Doris Mary Fortune, Hope Anne Heap, Elsie Elsdon Moore, Elsie Maria Thornton, York Maternity Hospital.

Lizzie Martha Morrison, Widnes Queen's Nurses' Association.

Ruth Armstrong Skillen, St. Luke's Hospital, Bradford.

Jessie Alexander Gatherer, Birmingham City Maternity Home.

The Secretary reported that the following applications had been granted:—

Mary Ann Duffy, Florence Annie Bradley, Gwen Griffiths, Katherine Anna McKeever, Rose Murphy, Mary Richards, Birmingham City Maternity Home.

Elizabeth May Smith Godfrey, Dorothy Midgley Hancock, Catherine Eunice Harcombe, Juanita Dorothy Litten, Elsie Florence Owen, Bristol Training Scheme.

Barbara Mallaburn, Essex County Nursing Association (Dagenham branch).

Florence Mary Brailsford, Leicester, Westcotes Municipal Maternity Home.

Hannah Ellen Burnett Mills, Lewisham (L.C.C.) Hospital.

Mary Gilliland, Northampton Queen's Institute of District Nursing.

Winifred Frances Donaldson, Stoke-on-Trent City Maternity Hospital.

Ivy Ann Fleming, Hastings District Nursing Association.

Nora Repton, Highfield Maternity Hospital, Wallasey.

Florence Augusta Johnson, East End Maternity Hospital.

Gertrude Tunstall, Brighton Municipal Hospital.

The Secretary reported the approval under emergency powers of:—

(i) Plaistow Maternity Hospital and District Nurses' Home;

(ii) Sheffield City General Hospital;

for the purpose of providing the instruction prescribed in the ruling on the administration of nitrous oxide and air by midwives.

The Secretary reported that he had placed on the Roll the names of 25 women holding the certificate of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland, the Central Midwives Board, Eire, or the Joint Nursing and Midwives' Council for Northern Ireland, as the case may be.

The Secretary reported that since the last meeting of the Board he had removed the names of 16 midwives from the Roll under section 5 (7) of the Midwives Act, 1936 (making the total number so removed 2,939).

## SOUTH AFRICA'S TRIBUTE TO MARGARET BREAY, S.R.N., S.C.M., F.B.C.N.

"The passing of so notable a nursing personality calls for more than a passing tribute, says the *South African Nursing Journal*.

Miss Breay was best known to nurses of the present day in her capacity as assistant editor of the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*, but her life was one of distinguished service to the nursing profession in many capacities. She entered the School of Nursing at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in 1885, and after completion of her training gained the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society and was at once appointed Matron of the Battersea Maternity Home. Two years later she accepted the post of Matron of the Metropolitan Hospital.

The missionary spirit with which she was so strongly imbued called her to Central Africa where she was appointed Matron of the Zanzibar Hospital under the Universities Mission, but after 18 months she had to leave Africa ravaged with malaria, and returned to England and practical nursing.

In 1896 she commenced her work as Assistant Editor of the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING* (Editor, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick), which she continued for 40 years.

A casual acquaintance might not have guessed from her retiring and unobtrusive manner the great intellect and cultured intelligence that lay behind it, or the fund of information which it concealed. Her long training in self-discipline, from which emanated the selflessness which characterised her, her almost fierce loyalty and devotion to principle and to her friends, her uncomplaining patience and tenacity of purpose, her boundless generosity, were the splendid gifts spent daily in support of the profession she loved and its honour, which she did so much to secure.

Among the outstanding achievements in which she bore so fine a part was particularly the International Council of Nurses (Hon. Treasurer from 1904 to 1925), of which she attended and reported upon practically every meeting, including the last in 1937. In 1929 at Montreal she represented the Founder and gave the Watchword.

She was a foundation member of the British Nurses' Association (granted the prefix Royal in 1891) and the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. At the foundation of the British College of Nurses she was offered and accepted the office of "Resident Vice-President," a position she held till death.

She helped to draft the first Bill for the Registration of Nurses presented to Parliament in 1904, and continued the struggle for its approval until success was achieved in 1919."

Margaret Breay also took a most maternal interest in midwifery, advocating and helping to advance the Midwives Act, in the work of which she took an active personal concern through the press.

## MATERNITY RELIEF IN SWEDEN.

Originally the payment of maternity benefits in Sweden was the sole concern of the sick benefit funds. To-day Maternity Benefit must be paid to every mother who has been the member of an approved sick benefit fund for at least 270 days, thus she must have become a member prior to her becoming pregnant. This benefit consists of a cash payment of 110 kroner, which sum is paid equally to all and without any form of means test whatsoever.

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