

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

The Committee met on Thursday, December 7th, 1939.

1. Applications from State Certified Midwives for approval as teacher :—

The Committee recommended that the following applications be granted :—

IVY KATHLEEN GARDNER, No. 87486. Bushey and Hillingdon County Hospitals. [Second period—district.]

ENA ANSELL KING, No. 90748. Norwich Municipal Maternity Home. [Second period—district.]

MINNIE HANBY, No. 96862. Wakefield Corporation Maternity Hospital. [Second period—district.]

2. Applications were considered for the approval of the following institutions for the prescribed instruction in gas and air analgesia :—

Eastbourne Municipal Maternity Home.
Leicester City General Hospital.

The Committee recommended that the applications be granted.

3. The Secretary reported that he has placed on the Roll the names of 67 women holding the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland, the Central Midwives Board, Eire, the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council for Northern Ireland, the New Zealand Nurses and Midwives Registration Board and the New South Wales Nurses Registration Board, as the case may be.

4. The Secretary reported that since the last meeting of the Board he has removed the names of 654 midwives from the Roll under section 5 (7) of the Midwives Act, 1936 (making the total number so removed 2,896).

EXAMINATION—NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, 1939.

List of Successful Candidates—Old Rules.

A list has been circulated of 87 successful candidates after examination under the Old Rules, with list of hospitals at which they were trained in England and Wales, and in London.

List of Successful Candidates—New Rules.

A list of 240 successful candidates under the New Rules has been circulated together with a list of Training Schools.

The Certificate of the Central Midwives Board is a great additional qualification, which it would be well for all Registered Nurses to obtain.

THE CONTROL OF PUERPERAL SEPSIS.

The Memorandum on the Control of Puerperal Sepsis, recently issued by the Ministry of Health, states that its primary object is to explain the nature of puerperal sepsis, how it is spread, and how to identify and group the streptococci responsible. It may, however, be useful to draw attention to the question of treatment as a preliminary to consideration of the bacteriological aspect.

The Minister regards it as most desirable that welfare authorities should make available facilities for investigation and treatment for the benefit of patients unable to secure adequate treatment for themselves. Welfare authorities are empowered, with the sanction of the Minister, to make provision for the special treatment of women suffering from puerperal pyrexia, for consultation with an obstetric specialist, for skilled nursing, or for institutional accommodation. Everything possible should be done to meet the requests of medical practitioners for special assistance for women suffering from serious pyrexia.

The Memorandum is concise and full of information. It deals with the problem as it affects the Minister of Health. The question has to be considered from two standpoints :

(1) in the absence of puerperal pyrexia ; (2) on its occurrence.

Maternity beds have been established in many reception areas in which few laboratory facilities are normally available. The Medical Research Council in collaboration with the Ministry of Health has established an Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service ; these laboratories will be prepared to assist in carrying out all types of examination referred to in this Memorandum.

"MODERN MIDWIFERY FOR NURSES"

As we go to press, we have received from the Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd., a copy of "Modern Midwifery for Nurses," in four volumes, for review. This appears to be a very valuable work, and we hope to refer to it more fully at an early date.

It is compiled by Douglas Hay Scott, M.B., Ch.B., formerly Tutor in Clinical Methods, Lecturer in Vaccination, and Demonstrator in Physiology, St. Andrews University, part author, and editor of "Modern Professional Nursing," "Modern Mental Nursing," etc. ; Mary J. M. Nicoll, M.A. (St. Andrews), S.R.N., S.C.M. (Royal Infirmary, and Royal Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh), formerly Assistant Sister Tutor, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, Sister Tutor, Maternity Hospital, Leeds ; and Cathleen M. Heggs, S.C.M., County Midwife, Kent County Council.

In a foreword, the Countess Baldwin of Bewdley, G.B.E., says, in part :—

"In giving my blessing to 'Modern Midwifery for Nurses,' a work I hope may reach every part of the Empire, I feel a certain amount of diffidence, for I have no medical or nursing credentials ; but, on the other hand, a good part of my married life has been spent in efforts made for the welfare of my fellow-women in childbed, and therefore I realise to the full what education in the science of midwifery must mean to those who devote their whole lives to it . . .

"The advances made in education and practice in midwifery during the past decade have been enormous. For this reason I cannot commend too highly any effort made to carry the torch of knowledge a stage farther on the way to perfect understanding. The midwife fulfils a very honoured and very responsible calling, and the duties she owes to her patients are of the greatest moment. For in what other profession, apart from that of a doctor, can it be said that the issue of life and death so fundamentally lies in a person's hands ? . . ."

A WORD FOR THE MONTH.

Speech of Boadicea to her army of 120,000 Britons in the first century A.D. as recorded by Dion Cassius (Xiphilinus Excerpta).

"I rule not like Nitocris, over beasts of burden, as are the effeminate nations of the East, nor, like Semiramis, over tradespeople and traffickers, nor, like the man-woman, Nero, over slaves and eunuchs—such is the precious knowledge these foreigners introduced amongst us—but I rule over Britons, little versed indeed in craft and diplomacy, but born and trained to the game of war ; men who in the cause of liberty stake down their lives, the lives of their wives and children, their lands and property. Queen of such a race, I implore your aid for freedom, for victory over enemies infamous for the wantonness of the wrongs they inflict, for their perversion of justice, for their insatiable greed ; a people that revel in unmanly pleasures, whose affections are more to be dreaded and abhorred than their enmity. Never let a foreigner bear rule over me or over my countrymen ; never let slavery reign in this land."

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