

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

The Committee met on 11th April, 1940.

1. The Secretary reported that the following Midwives had been approved by the Chairman acting under emergency powers as teachers of pupil-midwives:—

Hilda Millicent Downes, No. 70933 (Worcester County Nursing Association—intern).

Evelyn Reece Entwistle, No. 96003 (Worcester County Nursing Association—district).

Elizabeth Lloyd, No. 87651 (Birmingham City Maternity Home—district).

Marion Doris Horsley, No. 86809 (Gulson Road Municipal Hospital, Coventry—intern).

2. *Applications of State Certified Midwife, for approval as teacher.*

The Committee recommends that the following application be granted:—

Millicent Nellie Fensom, No. 95236 (Ashton-under-Lyne, Lake Hospital—intern).

3. The Secretary reported that he had placed on the Roll the names of eight women holding the certificate of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland or the Central Midwives Board, Eire, as the case may be.

4. The Secretary reported that since the last meeting of the Board he had removed the names of five midwives from the Roll under section 5 (7) of the Midwives Act, 1936 (making the total number so removed 2,923).

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD MIDWIFE-TEACHERS' CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION.

Part I. of the Midwife-Teachers' Certificate Examination will be held as follows:—

Written part: July 29th, 30th and 31st. Oral part: August 12th and, if necessary, 13th.

Forms of application can be obtained from the Secretary of the Central Midwives Board, 73, Great Peter Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

We have just received the 201st Annual Report of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, dealing with its work during the year 1939.

The Hospital has as its patrons Her Majesty the Queen and Her Majesty Queen Mary; as Vice-patron, H.R.H. the Princess Royal; and as President of the National Council, H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent. The President of the Hospital is Lord Howard de Walden.

The outbreak of war caused great anxiety, as nearly the whole of the honorary staff was called away for other duties; but, thanks to the loyal assistance of members of the consultative staff, the hospital was able to continue its services unimpaired. The hospital is working to its fullest capacity, but the number of beds at the disposal of the hospital cannot nearly meet the demand; but preference is given, where possible, to wives of men serving in the forces of the Crown.

The Queen paid a surprise visit to the hospital on November 2nd last, making a complete tour of all the wards, and expressed her great pleasure at the courage and efficiency of the staff, and at the arrangements for the care and safety of the patients.

Rebuilding.

The building of the new hospital at Hammersmith is proceeding. The main block of 196 beds is now practically

completed. When war broke out the nurses' home and kitchens were in course of erection; but as a large sum of money would have had to be expended upon the preservation of the steelwork and other matters, the Committee decided that the only feasible and economic course to follow was to continue building until the carcass of the Home had been completed.

Isolation Block.

The Isolation Block has been taken over by the Hammersmith Borough Council as a first-aid post and decontamination centre, and the Nurses' Home at Oakbrook has been closed.

Research Laboratories.

On the outbreak of war nearly all the members of the laboratories staff left to take up duties which had been assigned to them in the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service by the Medical Research Council in different parts of the country.

It was soon realised that the work of the Isolation Block and the Laboratory on the prevention and treatment of puerperal fever had a very direct application to the septic infection of war wounds. By agreement between the Royal Army Medical Corps and the Medical Research Council, Dr. Leonard Colebrook, a member of the Committee of Management, was appointed Consulting Bacteriologist to the British Expeditionary Force in France.

Strains of streptococci isolated from war wounds at home and abroad, and also from civil infections at home, will be investigated at the laboratory by Dr. F. Griffith and Dr. Dora Colebrook.

It is a great source of satisfaction to the Hospital that the work initiated some 10 years ago has not only helped in the fight against puerperal fever, but is also able now to make an important contribution to the national war effort.

Patients.

The number of booked cases during the year were 3,021, out of which six deaths were recorded; in 115 emergency cases, three deaths were recorded. This very low death rate must be a source of pride to the medical and nursing staffs of the hospital.

The domiciliary midwifery services of the Hospital extend over a very large area of Western London, and 1,296 were delivered in their own homes, as compared with 1,395 in 1938.

The ante-natal departments were attended by 3,367 patients, whose attendances numbered 21,735.

Post-natal clinics are also held at the hospital for the in-patients, and at Kensington and Hammersmith for out-patients, attendances numbered 2,172.

Midwifery Training School.

The full effect of the new rules of the Central Midwives Board was felt in 1939, and is a principal factor in the grave deficit in maintenance. The maternity hospitals of Great Britain are renewing their efforts to persuade the authorities to increase the inadequate grants and fees in respect of pupils' training.

The number of nurses who passed the Central Midwives' Board examinations during the year was 111, there being no failures.

Gifts.

Gifts of old linen and babies' clothing for the out-patients and their infants are earnestly solicited.

Gifts of books for the patients' library and flowers for the wards are also solicited, and will be most thankfully acknowledged by the Matron, to whom they should be sent.

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