

13. *Penalty for Obtaining Registration by False Representation.*—Any woman who wilfully procures, or attempts to procure, herself to be placed on the Register of Obstetric Nurses by making or producing, or causing to be made or produced, any false or fraudulent declaration, certificate, or representation, either in writing or otherwise, and any person assisting her therein, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, and shall, on conviction thereof, be liable to a fine not exceeding £10, or to be imprisoned with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding three months.

14. *Penalty for Wilful Falsification of Register.*—Any person who wilfully makes, or causes to be made, any falsification in any matter relating to the Register of Obstetric Nurses shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £20, or to be imprisoned with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding six months.

15. *Prosecution of Offences.*—Any offence under this Act punishable on summary conviction may be prosecuted, and any fine under this Act, recoverable on summary conviction, may be recovered in manner provided by the Summary Jurisdiction Acts; and all penalties shall be paid to the Treasurer of the Obstetric Nurses Board, anything contained to the contrary in the Metropolitan Police Acts or any Act passed before the passing of these Acts notwithstanding.

16. *Civil and Legal Liabilities of Midwifery Nurses.*—In any civil or criminal proceedings against any person practising midwifery or obstetric nursing (except in emergency by an unregistered person who has sent for a duly qualified practitioner or registered midwifery nurse if obtainable), such person shall be liable for any conduct or practice which shall fail to show a reasonable amount of skill or knowledge in the delivery or subsequent attendance of a lying-in woman.

17. *Exemption for Registered Medical Practitioners.*—Nothing in this Act contained shall prejudice persons registered under the Medical Acts.

18. *Extent of Act.*—This Act shall not extend to Scotland or Ireland.

MEMORANDUM BY THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE REGULATIONS PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION BY THE OBSTETRIC NURSES BOARD.

Women who are registered as obstetric nurses in England, and who wish to act as such, must conform to the following regulations and instructions:

SECTION A.—GENERAL.

1. The instruments which an obstetric nurse must always keep carefully clean and in order, and take with her when called to a confinement, are the following:

A medium-sized syringe with a vaginal tube, a flexible catheter, a pair of umbilical cord scissors, a clinical thermometer, and a nail brush.

Besides these, the obstetric nurse must take with her in clean, well-stoppered bottles, the following or other antiseptics and lubricants which may be approved by the Obstetric Nurses Board.

- (1) 3 oz. of liquefied carbolic acid, *B.P.*, for making a disinfectant solution of the strength of one tablespoonful to a pint of water (1 in 40).
- (2) 2 oz. of vaseline, with which is incorporated 5 per cent. of carbolic acid.

As carbolic acid in crystal and liquid state, and also in strong watery solutions, is corrosive when applied externally, and when given internally is a POISON, the obstetric nurse must take particular care to avoid its misuse.

The obstetric nurse must not leave any of the above appliances with the pregnant or lying-in woman.

An official appointed by the Obstetric Nurses Board shall from time to time inspect the appliances, to see if they are kept in complete working order.

Every obstetric nurse must possess an approved book of instruction for obstetric nurses.

2. Obstetric nurses must keep themselves scrupulously clean, and avoid contact with sick persons and decomposing substances of every kind, so that their fingers, appliances, or clothes may not contain any infective material which might be conveyed to the lying-in woman during examinations, and thereby produce puerperal fever. Obstetric nurses are strenuously enjoined before touching a lying-in woman to wash their hands and instruments thoroughly with a disinfectant.

3. If an obstetric nurse has charge of a lying-in case she must not leave during the delivery, and must stay with the woman at least one hour after the expulsion of the afterbirth in a normal labour. In cases of abnormal labours, or in threatened danger, she must always await the arrival of the doctor, and remain with the case as long as he thinks necessary, and faithfully carry out his instructions.

4. In cases of threatened danger or in abnormal conditions occurring in women either pregnant or in labour, or to their newborn children, or at the sudden death of a pregnant or lying-in woman, the obstetric nurse must at once see that a registered medical practitioner is called in.

5. In apparently dead children of viable age in whom no signs of putrefaction have developed, the obstetric nurse, in the absence of the medical practitioner, who must be summoned at once, should practise the methods for resuscitation taught her, for at least half an hour or until the child breathes regularly.

6. Any obstetric nurse who procures the death or expulsion of a foetus, the substitution or changing of a child, or who is accessory thereto, is performing a criminal action.

7. Obstetric nurses must conscientiously guard the secrets of their patients, and must only divulge them if the law requires them to do so.

8. The obstetric nurse shall be responsible for the cleanliness, comfort, and proper dieting of the mother and child during the lying-in period, which shall be held in a normal case to mean the time occupied by the labour and a period of ten days thereafter.

9. If a registered medical practitioner be also in attendance, the obstetric nurse shall act in accordance with the instructions given by him, and shall be responsible for the carrying out of the same.

10. A "normal case of labour" (styled "natural labour" in the Act) shall, for the purpose of the Act, and of this its appendix, be held to mean a labour which occurs at full time, in which the presentation is that of the vertex, and in which there are none of the conditions specified in Section C.

(To be continued.)

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