

# The Midwife.

## THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

### MIDWIFE-TEACHERS CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION.

The Central Midwives Board held the Midwife-Teachers Examination in January. The Theory Examination took place on January 21st; the Teaching Examination on January 22nd; and the Public Health and Social Service Examination on January 23rd. The candidates were allowed three hours in which to answer the questions.

### SECOND EXAMINATION FOR PUPIL MIDWIVES.

The second examination for Pupil Midwives will be held on March 13th at Birmingham, Leeds; on March 14th at Croydon; on March 15th at London, Bristol; and on March 16th at Manchester.

### NITROUS OXIDE AND AIR ANALGESIA.

*Nature of prescribed instruction and conditions for approval of institutions for the provision of such instruction.*

(1) An institution will not be approved in future for the purpose of providing the special instruction prescribed in the Board's ruling on the administration of nitrous oxide and air by midwives unless:—

- (i) The institution is one training pupil-midwives or medical students or providing post-certificate courses for midwives or holding post-graduate courses for medical practitioners, or is otherwise considered by the Board as suitable for approval;
- (ii) the institution has attached to it a specialist anaesthetist;
- (iii) the resident medical officer or the midwife, who would undertake the detailed supervision of the practical work is fully qualified in the use of the nitrous oxide and air apparatus on which the instruction at the institution will be based;
- (iv) the institution is in a position to provide instruction of a high standard.

(2) The minimum instruction which will be provided by an institution approved for the purpose (referred to hereafter as "approved institution") should be as follows:—

- (i) For its own midwives and pupil-midwives, a course extending over not more than six consecutive months and consisting of
  - (a) Three Lecture-demonstrations by a specialist anaesthetist of an approved institution, one of these lectures to deal with the emergencies of anaesthesia and care of the unconscious patient.\*
  - (b) The administration of nitrous oxide and air to at least 15 patients in labour by means of a recognised apparatus under the general supervision of a specialist anaesthetist on the staff of an approved institution and under the detailed supervision of a midwife who is well qualified in the use of the apparatus or a resident medical officer who is similarly qualified.
- (ii) For midwives not on the staff of the approved institution, if such midwives are admitted to the course, three lecture-demonstrations, one of these to deal with the emergencies of anaesthesia and care of the unconscious patient, and the administration of nitrous oxide and air to at least 15 cases as prescribed in 2 (i), (a) and (b) above, a midwife attending the course of instruction to do so, whole-time, for at least two consecutive weeks.
- (3) Two or more approved institutions may co-operate in the provisions of the prescribed lecture-demonstrations.

\* Note.—An outline for these lectures may be obtained from the Central Midwives Board.

(4) The term "recognised apparatus" means an apparatus which has been recognised by the Board as one which may be used by midwives in accordance with the Board's ruling.

The following have been so recognised:—

Minnitt Gas-Air Analgesia Apparatus.

Walton-Minnitt Gas-Air Apparatus.

"Amwell" Gas-Air Analgesia Apparatus.

(5) A pupil-midwife or midwife, on completing the prescribed course, shall be tested to ascertain her standard of proficiency in the use of the recognised apparatus, the tests being conducted by the specialist anaesthetist who has given the lectures, a member of the obstetric staff of the approved institution and the Matron of the approved institution (or in her absence the midwife or resident medical officer who has undertaken the detailed supervision of the practical work).

(6) If the pupil-midwife or midwife is found to have attained a sufficiently high standard, the institution shall forward to the Board schedule A.1 (in the case of a pupil) or schedule A.2 (in the case of a midwife) certifying that having completed the prescribed course, she has been examined and found proficient.

(7) Having received the duly attested schedule A.1 or A.2, the Board will then make a record on the Register of Pupils, or Roll of Midwives, and in due course issue a certificate of proficiency. (In the case of a pupil, the certificate will not be issued until she passes the Part II midwifery examination.)

The Chairman of the Central Midwives Board since 1936, Sir Comyns Berkeley, M.C., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., who has held the position for so many years, died on January 27th, in the Middlesex Hospital at the age of eighty years.

This position is of great importance, and it is to be hoped that the next Chairman of the Central Midwives Board may be a person of sincere sympathy with the invaluable work of the Midwives accomplished in this country.

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