

by the Board. These rules form Section G of the amended rules approved by the Minister of Health on February 1st, 1955 (Statutory Instrument 1955 No. 120). It should be noted that, whereas the former rules in Section G were held in suspense until the Minister should approve their coming into effect, the new rules are effective as from January 1st, 1958, in the case of practising midwives, and immediately in the case of supervisors of midwives and those midwives who qualified before January 1st, 1939, and have not practised since that date.

2. Section 17 (1) (g) of the Midwives Act, 1951, requires that every local supervising authority shall provide or arrange for the provision of such courses of instruction for midwives practising in their area as may be necessary to enable those midwives to comply with the rules made by the Board under Section 4 (1) (d) of the Act.

3. The Board believe that the opportunity to take refresher courses will be welcomed by the majority of midwives and regarded by them as a privilege and not as a burden, and further, that they can count upon the interest and support of local supervising and hospital authorities for whom the rules will provide an effective means of ensuring the continued efficiency of the midwives in their employment or under their supervision.

4. Rule G.3 requires that all supervisors or assistant supervisors of midwives shall, within five years from the commencement of employment as such, attend a course of instruction approved by the Board, and shall attend similar courses at intervals of not more than five years. It is the intention of the Board to approve for the purposes of this rule courses for supervisors of midwives organised by the Association of Supervisors of Midwives. Application for admission to such courses should accordingly be made to the Secretary of the Association at 25, Abbey Lane, Beckenham, Kent. The Board will, however, be prepared to consider the approval of other courses for the purposes of this rule in individual cases.

5. The courses which the Board will be prepared to approve for the purposes of Rule G.2 will be provided in institutions approved by the Board for the purpose. The content and length of such courses will be decided upon individually in the case of each midwife, taking into account her training and subsequent experience. The Board will be glad of the assistance of local supervising authorities in bringing to the Board's notice every notification of intention to practise received by them which appears to call for the application of this rule. Arrangements for the provision of a suitable course will be made as quickly as possible, and consent to the midwife's practising before taking the course should only be given if the local supervising authority are satisfied that the efficiency of the maternity service will not thereby be prejudiced.

6. It is the Board's intention to approve for the purposes of Rule G.1 residential courses of the sort at present organised by the Royal College of Midwives. It is, however, clear that full compliance with the requirements of the rules will necessitate a substantial increase in the volume of the courses provided during the next few years. It is understood that the Royal College of Midwives intend to increase substantially the provision made by them, but there will remain ample scope for the organisation of courses by hospital and local health authorities. The Board will accordingly be glad to advise any hospital or local health authority which decides to organise courses for the purposes of this rule, and to consider such courses for approval. The attached document will give some guidance as to the type of course which the Board would be prepared to consider.

7. The Board will record the names of all midwives who have satisfactorily completed courses approved under Section G. of the rules.

SUGGESTED CONDITIONS FOR THE APPROVAL OF COURSE UNDER RULE G.1.

1. The course must be whole-time and should preferably be residential.
2. Provision should be made during the course for discussion groups and arrangements made for visits to hospitals, special units, research centres, etc., in the area.
3. About 12 lectures might conveniently be arranged in the period of a week, such as :—
 - Eight on antenatal care, including relaxation, parentcraft, infant care and the principles of nutrition, and the methods of teaching these subjects ; obstetrics stressing recent advances ; the infant.
 - One on analgesia and drugs.
 - Two on the maternity service generally, with special reference to the social services.
 - One on the Midwives Act and the Central Midwives Board rules.

The Board attach great importance to the value of institutional and domiciliary midwives taking refresher courses together, and hope that organisers will bear this in mind and will not confine their courses to either institutional or domiciliary midwives.

MEMORANDUM ON THE USE OF TRICHLOROETHYLENE B.P. ANALGESIA BY MIDWIVES ON THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITY.

1. New Rules made by the Board have now been approved by the Minister of Health (Statutory Instrument 1955 No. 120). The authority for the use of trichloroethylene by midwives on their own responsibility depends upon the action taken by the Board under Rules 12, 25 and 35 of Section E.

2. For the purposes of paragraph (c) of Rules 12, 25 and 35 of Section E, the Board have resolved that in addition to the nitrous oxide and air machines already approved, the following apparatus for administering trichloroethylene B.P. shall be approved :—

(i) *Tecota Mark 6.*

Made by Cyprane, Ltd., Haworth, Keighley, Yorks.

(ii) *Emotril Trichloroethylene Automatic Inhaler.*

Made by the Medical and Industrial Equipment, Ltd., 12, New Cavendish Street, London, W.1.

3. The Board have further resolved in accordance with paragraph (c) referred to above, and direct accordingly, that no apparatus for the administration of trichloroethylene shall be used by a midwife on her own responsibility unless it has been inspected and approved by or on behalf of the Board within a period of six months before the date of use. A certificate will be issued by the Board at the time of purchase to the body or person by whom the apparatus is purchased. Arrangements for periodic inspection thereafter must be made by the owners of the apparatus with the manufacturers, who will arrange with the Board for the issue of the requisite certificates.

4. With regard to paragraph (e) of Rules 12, 25 and 35 of Section E, provision is made in the recommended analgesia lecture course (a revised version of which was issued on October 21st, 1954) for instruction to be given in the administration of trichloroethylene with apparatus of an approved type. Midwives who have already been fully instructed in the administration of nitrous oxide and air should be capable of administering trichloroethylene on their own responsibility when they have attended a demonstration in the use of the approved apparatus.

5. The Board would be glad if this memorandum could be brought to the notice of all midwives who are practising within the area of your local supervising authority.

6. Copies of this memorandum are being sent by the Ministry of Health to Regional Hospital Boards, Hospital Management Committees and Boards of Governors of Teaching Hospitals.

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