

The Midwife.

Central Midwives Board.

First Examination.

February 6th, 1952.

From 2 to 5 p.m.

Candidates are advised to attempt to answer all the questions.

- Describe the function of the placenta.
What points do you specially look for when you examine the placenta and membranes after delivery?
- What is a placenta praevia and how may its presence be suspected and diagnosed?
- A multigravida has been in the second stage of labour for one hour and the presenting part has made no advance. To what may this be due and how may the condition be treated?
- What is post-partum haemorrhage, and what are your duties when attending such a case?
How would you treat a case of severe bleeding from the genital tract occurring immediately after the birth of the baby?
- Give an account of your care of the eyes of a new-born infant and mention other methods that are employed.
What is ophthalmia neonatorum?
What action should a midwife take when it occurs?
- What is a stillbirth?
To what may it be due?
What are the midwife's duties if she delivers a still-born child?

Report on the Work of the Board for the Year ended 31st March, 1951.

DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW the Board's training schools have seen more than 2,800 pupil-midwives successfully through their training. This achievement has not, however, been free from difficulty. At least three months' district training, in the course of which the pupil takes at least ten domiciliary cases, forms part of the second period of training, and the Board regard it as an indispensable part. So far they have not felt it necessary to reduce the length of time spent on the district or the number of cases to be taken. With the decline in the number of domiciliary births, however, it is becoming increasingly difficult to secure the new districts for training purposes that are required to maintain the output of midwives. A potent contributory factor to this difficulty is the lack of a nationally agreed formula for allocating the responsibility for paying for the district part of the pupils' training. The responsibility is self-evident when the local authority conduct the training entirely on their own and the pupil accordingly spends the whole six months of her second period of training on the district. The usual arrangement, however, is for three months to be spent in an institution and three months on the district. In this event a varying finance pattern prevails: in some cases the hospital authority meet the full cost including that of the district training; in some cases the local authority reimburse the hospital authority in some mutually agreed manner for the use of the pupil's services on the district. This whole matter has now been under discussion for some time between the Ministry of Health and the local authority associations; and it is hoped that agreement on a common system of payment will ultimately be achieved. If it is, the Board's work in maintaining a satisfactory training system will be considerably eased. In the meantime the Board hope that local authorities will remember that without their contribution to the training

of pupil-midwives there could in fact be no training, and that they are not deterred from making their districts available for training purposes by purely short-term considerations.

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN.

At the annual meeting of the Board on April 6th, 1950, Mr. Arnold Walker was re-elected Chairman and Mr. J. P. Hedley was re-elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

ROLL OF MIDWIVES.

On March 31st, 1951, the Roll of Midwives contained 52,013 names, being 12,477 less than at March 31st, 1950.

The decrease in this figure compared with the previous year is due to a clearance of the Roll in accordance with Section 3 (2) of the Midwives Act, 1926. Up to March 31st, 1951, 48,821 midwives had been circularised, the names of 33,524 having been removed from the Roll. This number consists of 2,000 notifications of the death of the midwife, and 2,345 removals in consequence of voluntary retirement, and no reply was received from 29,179 whose names were accordingly removed after the expiration of the statutory period of six months.

MIDWIVES NOTIFYING INTENTION TO PRACTISE IN 1950-51.

An analysis of the returns shows that, of the 18,800 women who notified intention to practise, 5,167, or 27.5 per cent. of those actually practising midwifery, were non-state-registered nurses. 5,727, or 30.5 per cent. of the total were known to be married.

MIDWIVES WHO DURING 1950-51 NOTIFIED INTENTION TO ACT AS MATERNITY NURSES ONLY.

According to return submitted to the Board by local supervising authorities, the number of women who notified their intention to act as maternity nurses only was 824.

TRAINING OF PUPIL-MIDWIVES.

The number of pupil-midwives entering first period training institutions during the year ended March 31st, 1951, showed a decrease of 249 on the previous year's figures, while the number of pupils entering second period institutions increased by 60.

Of the 4,241 pupil-midwives entering first period training schools in 1950-51, 3,991 (or 94 per cent.) did so under the reduced period of training allowed to state-registered nurses and registered sick children's nurses.

Wastage during training, which is confined almost entirely to the first period, averaged 7.3 per cent. of registrations.

APPROVAL OF FIRST AND SECOND PERIOD SCHOOLS.

Throughout the year the number of approved places in first period schools continued to exceed greatly the supply of pupils and the Board have, therefore, maintained their policy of not approving any new first period schools, nor any increase in the number of approved places at existing first period schools.

EXAMINATION FOR PUPIL MIDWIVES.

Of the total of 4,767 entrants for the First Examination during the year under review, all but 335, and of the 3,109 entrants for the Second Examination, all but 237 were state-registered nurses or registered sick children's nurses. The corresponding figures for last year were 276 and 229 respectively.

The number of First Examination passes was 43 less than last year, falling from 3,606 to 3,563, a decrease of 1.2 per cent., and in the Second Examination there was a slight increase in the number of entries from 3,069 to 3,109, and an

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