

increase of 1.2 per cent., from 2,673 to 2,705, in the number of passes. In the last report a decrease of 2.4 per cent. was shown in First Examination passes and an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the Second Examination passes.

MIDWIFE TEACHERS DIPLOMA EXAMINATION.

Non-residential courses of instruction were conducted in London, Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester. The first residential course was held at the Midwife Teachers Training College established at Kingston Hill.

Part I of the Midwife Teachers Diploma Examination was held in June-July and October-November, 1950, and of 160 entries, 62 candidates were successful.

Part II was held in July and November, 1950, and of 107 entries, 56 candidates were successful.

The Board have felt for some time that there was a need to revise the syllabus for the Public Health and Social Service section of Part I of the Midwife Teachers Diploma Examination in order to make it more in keeping with present legislation and conditions. During the year they carried out this revision and also decided to institute a *viva voce* examination in the subject. Steps will be taken as soon as practicable to make the appropriate amendments to the rules.

MIDWIFE TEACHERS TRAINING COLLEGE, KINGSTON HILL.

The Board continue to be represented on the Council of the Midwife Teachers Training College and to provide secretarial assistance for it. They are glad to note the success achieved by the students of the first six months' course, which ended in December, 1950. Out of the 16 students, 12 passed Part I and 10 passed both Parts of the Midwife Teachers Diploma Examination.

GIFT FROM THE ROYAL EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT.

The Royal Egyptian Government presented to the Board a set of the "Atlas of Mahfouz's Obstetric and Gynaecological Museum." The Board were most appreciative of this gift and it was decided to place these valuable books at the disposal of the Midwife Teachers Training College.

ANALGESIA IN CHILDBIRTH—TRILENE.

The Analgesia in Midwifery Committee of the Medical Research Council, who have been investigating the use of trilene, are still unable to recommend that it can be used by midwives on their own responsibility. Previously the investigation had been pursued by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. As a result, however, of the report of the Working Party of Midwives the Medical Research Council set up a special committee to whom this task was transferred. This committee have carried out tests of several prototype inhalers submitted by manufacturers but are not yet able to say that any of them fulfil all the requirements of safety and reliability that such an apparatus should embody. Although, therefore, the Board are anxious to make available to midwives every safe method of administering analgesia, they are not yet in a position to authorise the use of trilene by midwives on their own responsibility.

APPORTIONMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTY COUNCILS AND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILS UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE MIDWIVES ACT, 1902, AND SECTION 2 OF THE MIDWIVES ACT, 1918.

The levies on the County Councils and County Borough Councils of England and Wales to meet the deficiency in the Board's revenue for the year 1950, collected by apportionment among the various Councils, amounted to £16,412 11s. 0d., as against £17,157 4s. 4d., for 1949.

STAFF.

In December, 1950, Miss E. A. Clark-Kennedy, O.B.E., retired from her position as Educational Supervisor after

13 years and the Board recorded their appreciation of her valuable services during this time.

Miss Z. M. Goodall was appointed to the Board's staff as an Educational Supervisor and began her duties on January 1st, 1951.

Estimate of Future Births.

347,000 Babies Expected in First Six Months of 1952.

The quarterly estimate of the numbers of live births to be expected in England and Wales as a whole during the six months January to June, 1952, was announced on Saturday, February 2nd by the Registrar General.

The final estimate for the March quarter is 173,000 and the provisional estimate for the June quarter is 174,000, giving an estimated total of 347,000 babies in the six months.

There were 176,299 live births registered in the March quarter, 1951, and 180,958 in the June quarter of that year—a total of 357,257.

Babies Large and Small.

The boy baby of Mrs. John Kinch, of Bray, Eire, weighed 17 lb. 3 oz. at birth, on June 13th, 1950. Last June, his weight had become more than double the average for a year-old. His mother was aged 34 at the time of the birth. The families of both parents had been noted for big babies.

Jenny Brown has had nine children, one of whom, a son now seven, had been even larger at birth than her 19-pounder she says.

At the other extreme was a 1 lb. 15 oz. premature child, born last August in the region of Knoxville, Tennessee. Before going to a hospital incubator, where it thrived, it had been kept in a home-made incubator—a basket racked with fruit jars containing hot water.

A Thought for the Month.

The Spirit of Healing.

WHAT IS THE SPIRIT OF HEALING? Perhaps it originates from the Spirit of God. Nowhere else could it find its source, for it is one of the strongest influences for good in this world.

This Spirit of Healing can heal the bruised soul of heart-ache, and blows from a world gone callous through greed. It flows gently, as out of a solid rock built out of the Spirit of Evil, washing away the pain.

Why is this Spirit of Healing kept so much in the background today? This power of its use is given to the few. Let those who have it take courage and use it. Let the power be proclaimed far and wide.

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