

# The Midwife.

## CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

### FIRST EXAMINATION.

November 4th, 1953.

From 2 to 5 p.m.

Candidates were advised to attempt to answer all the questions.

1. Describe the anatomy of the uterus, and the changes that occur in the uterus during labour.
2. Describe, with reasons, a suitable diet for a pregnant woman.
3. A patient is found to have an occipito-posterior position of the vertex early in labour. Describe your management of the labour.
4. What is puerperal pyrexia? What are the common causes of such pyrexia and what examinations would be made in each case?
5. Discuss the common causes of the death of a baby within four weeks of its birth.
6. What information may be obtained from observation of :—
  - (i) the mother's lochia
  - (ii) the infant's stool?

## Continued Decline in Tuberculosis.

THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S Quarterly Return\* for the September Quarter, 1953, was published recently.

The main figures of Births and Deaths, etc., in England and Wales for September Quarter, 1953, have already been published in the Registrar General's Weekly Return for week ended October 10th. This notice refers to information not previously published. The following items of interest are recorded.

### Population.

The estimated home population of England and Wales as at June 30th, 1953, is shown to be 44,090,000 (21,213,000 males, 22,877,000 females). This is an increase over the estimate for 1952 of 150,000 persons. The population aged 65 years and over is estimated to have increased by 54,000, the population of children aged 0-14 years to have increased by 59,000 while the remainder of the population—those aged 15-64—increased by 37,000.

### Marriages.

The number of marriages registered was 105,475. This was higher than that for the September quarter of 1952 (103,079), but lower than the average for the corresponding quarters of the five years 1948-52 (113,356).

### Poliomyelitis.

While poliomyelitis, with 2,688 notifications and 144 deaths in the quarter, was much less prevalent this summer than in the years of serious epidemics—1947, 1949 and 1950—it remained much more prevalent than in years before 1947.

### Causes of Death in the June Quarter.

An analysis by cause of deaths registered in the June quarter (with corresponding figures for earlier quarters) shows, for example, that deaths from tuberculosis, which have been declining rapidly since 1947, numbered 5,043 in the first half of this year compared with 6,017 in the first half of last year. There was only one death from diphtheria in the June quarter; there were 294 deaths in the same quarter of 1943.

### Death Rates in Cities Abroad.

In the September quarter the death rate per 1,000 population in Greater London was 7.7. This compared with 9.2 in New York, 8.6 in Stockholm, 8.0 in Copenhagen, 7.6 in Oslo and 6.6 in Rome. In the Southern Hemisphere, rates were: Wellington, N.Z. 8.3; Auckland, N.Z. 9.5; Cape-town, 13.9; Johannesburg 21.0.

### Infant Mortality.

A comparison of death rates of children under one year of age in June quarter, 1953, shows that the England and Wales rate of 26 per 1,000 related live births compared with: Netherlands 22, Australia 24, U.S.A. 28, Scotland 29, Irish Republic 41, France 43, Italy 53.

\* The Registrar General's Quarterly Return No. 419, H.M.S.O. price 2s. net (or by post from P.O. Box 569, London, S.E.1, price 2s. 1½d.).

## 325,000 Babies expected in December and March Quarters.

THE QUARTERLY ESTIMATE of the numbers of live births to be expected in England and Wales as a whole during the six months October, 1953-March, 1954, was announced recently by the Registrar-General.\*

The final estimate for the December quarter is 155,000 and the provisional estimate for the March quarter 170,000, giving an estimated total of 325,000 babies in the six months.

There were 158,029 live births registered in the December quarter, 1952, and 171,705 in the March quarter of 1953—a total of 329,734.

Last week (week ended October 31st, 1953) there were 6,957 live births registered in the 160 great towns of England and Wales, compared with 7,157 in the previous week. This brings the total in those towns from the first week of the year to 332,683, compared with 328,062 in the same period a year ago.

\* The Registrar-General's Weekly Return No. 43, 1953. H.M.S.O., price 1s. net (or by post from P.O. Box 569, London, S.E.1, price 1s. 1½d.).

## Flo's Letter.

“ Dear God : The baby you brought us  
Is awful nice and sweet,  
But 'cause you forgot his toofies  
The poor little thing can't eat.  
That's why I'm writing this letter,  
A purpose to let you know,  
Please come and finish the baby.  
That's all. From ' Little Flo '.”

By EBEN E. REXFORD.

Found in a scrapbook of the last century.

Reprinted from *The Quarterly Bulletin of Frontier Nursing Service, Inc.*

## The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

We wish to correct the statement made in our last issue that the Canterbury Hospital has resigned from the National Council; it should have read the “Pendlebury” Hospital.

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