

The Midwife.

Central Midwives Board.

FIRST EXAMINATION.

12th May, 1954. From 2 to 5 p.m.

1. Describe the anatomy of the female breast.
What can be done to encourage successful breast-feeding?
2. How would you conduct the examination of one of your booked patients at her visit to your antenatal clinic at about the 34th week of pregnancy?
3. What is the second stage of labour?
How do you recognise that it has begun?
4. What disturbances of micturition may occur during the lying-in period?
How would you deal with them?
5. What would make you decide that a baby was not thriving during the first two weeks of life, and what investigations would you make?
6. What measures are taken to reduce the incidence of still-birth?

Widespread Decreases in Mortality Rates in 1952.

Lowest-ever Figures in Several Categories
No Deaths from Diphtheria: Tuberculosis Toll Still Falling

DECREASES IN THE MORTALITY rates in many categories are reported by the Registrar-General, Belfast, Northern Ireland, in his report dealing with 1952, published recently. In a number of cases the figures are the lowest ever recorded.

The report states that there was an increase in the birth rate and decreases in the marriage and death rates. The general death rate, the infant mortality rate, the maternal mortality rate and the death rates from tuberculosis and the principal epidemic diseases were the lowest ever recorded. No deaths were returned as due to diphtheria for the first time since comparable records have been maintained. Mortality from cancer, heart diseases, pneumonia and bronchitis, cerebral haemorrhage and diseases of the digestive system also decreased.

Births registered during the year numbered 28,760—14,846 males and 13,914 females—the total being equivalent to a rate of 20.9 per 1,000 of the population. This rate is 0.2 above that for 1951, but is 0.8 below the average rate for the five years 1947-51. During the year there were 371 births of twins and three of triplets. Illegitimate births number 959 as compared with 895 in 1951. Illegitimate births as a percentage of total births in Northern Ireland was 3.3.

Marriages number 9,300 which is 114 less than the previous year. The rate, 6.8 per 1,000 population, is 0.1 below that for 1951. The average age of men marrying was 29.8 years and of women 26.2. Of the 18,600 persons married 2,316—500 males and 1,816 females—were under 21 years of age, whilst at the other end of the age scale 149 men and 38 women were aged 60 and over; four of the men were actually over 80 years of age.

The number of deaths registered during 1952 was 14,812, 2,816 less than in 1951. The rate per 1,000 of the population was 10.8. It is 2.0 below the rate for 1951 and 1.1 below the average rate for five years 1947-51. Of the total deaths 8.6 per cent. were of children under five years of age and 62.4 per cent. of persons aged 65 and upwards. Three persons, one male and two females, were aged 100 years.

Heart disease, as is usually the case, accounted for the highest proportion of deaths and it is shown that deaths from

this disease occur mainly among persons of fairly advanced age. Deaths from heart disease number 4,842, a decrease of 665 on the 1951 figure, the rate per 1,000 population being 3.52.

Cancer Indications—More Frequent in Men than Women

Deaths from cancer numbered 2,020, of which 1,015 were males and 1,005 females. The rate per 1,000 population was 1.47, which is 0.01 below the rate for 1951 and is the same as the average rate for the previous five years. The division of cancer deaths between the sexes, apart from the sites which are not common to both sexes, indicates that it is more frequent in men than in women. This is particularly marked in the case of lung cancer. Of the 200 deaths from cancer of the lung 162 were of men as compared with 38 of women. Of the total deaths from this cause 145 (73 per cent.) occurred in urban areas and 55 (27 per cent.) in rural areas.

The number of deaths assigned to cerebral haemorrhage amounted to 1,928 or 13 per cent. of the total deaths. This figure is 55 less than that for 1951. The death rate from this disease was 1.40 as compared with 1.44 for 1951.

Pneumonia and bronchitis accounted for 949 deaths, a decrease of 461 from the previous year. Deaths from influenza fell from 883 to 61 during the same period.

Deaths from the principal epidemic diseases fell from 1,018 in 1951 to 169 in the year under review; this was mainly due to the large decrease in the number of deaths from influenza.

No deaths were recorded as due to diphtheria. The decline in this disease is striking when it is noted that 133 deaths from diphtheria were returned in 1941.

The death rate from tuberculous diseases continued to fall, the rate being 0.30 per 1,000 population as compared to 0.45 in 1951 and the average rate of 0.39 for the five years 1947-51. The number of deaths assigned to tuberculosis was 410 of which 236 were of males and 174 of females. In 1948 the numbers recorded were over double these figures.

The number of deaths ascribed to violence during the year was 470, which is a decrease of 84 on the number registered for 1951. Of these 470 deaths, 149 were attributed to transport accidents, 140 being due to road traffic accidents as compared with 177 in 1951. There were 41 cases of suicide, 30 males and 11 females.

Mortality among infants under one year of age was equivalent to 39 deaths per 1,000 live births registered; this rate is the lowest ever recorded in Northern Ireland. Of 1,117 deaths of infants under one year of age, 670 were of males and 447 of females, the figures for males being equal to a death rate of 45 per 1,000 male births and that for females 32 deaths per 1,000 female births.

The maternal mortality rate fell from 1.09 per 1,000 births in 1951 to 1.08 in the year under review. The number of deaths from maternal causes was 31. This number is 10 less than the average number for the preceding five years.

What to Read.

Biography and Memoirs.

"The Royal Tour." Wynford Vaughan Thomas.
"Sir Winston Churchill," a self-portrait, with an introduction by Colin R. Coote and Patrick Bunyan.

Fiction.

"Betsybob." Margaret Morrison.
"What Everybody Wants." Walter Greenwood.
"The Crooked Rain." Gerald Gordon.
"Maggie Rowan." Catherine Cookson.
"Against Whom?" Phyllis Bottome.

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