

pending reports from the local supervising authorities, and no action was taken in two cases.

From a survey of the Board's penal cases over the last few years, it appears that local supervising authorities and hospitals are becoming more conscious of the dangers of pethidine as a drug of addiction. The Ministry of Health has during the year issued a circular to general practitioners, suggesting that where a midwife is employed the general practitioner should not prescribe a supply of pethidine, medicinal opium or tincture of opium, or issue it personally, but should rely on the midwife's supply of these drugs which she is able to procure by means of a supply order given on the authority of the Medical Officer of Health of a local health authority, under Regulation 13 (4) of the Dangerous Drugs Regulations, 1953, which also lays down the method in which the midwife must record the drug so obtained and the amount used. The Board have asked local supervising authorities to draw the attention of all midwives to this advice.

Training of Pupil-midwives.

The number of pupil-midwives entering first period training schools during the year ended March 31st, 1955, showed an increase of 180 on the previous year's figures. The number of pupils entering second period training schools showed an increase of 219.

Of the 4,817 pupil-midwives entering first period schools in 1954-55 4,648 (or 96.5 per cent.) were general or sick children's nurses.

Wastage during training, which is confined almost entirely to the first period, averaged 10.3 per cent. of registrations.

King's College Hospital, which was approved as a first period training school in conjunction with Redhill County Hospital, ceased to train pupil-midwives during the year and in consequence of this Redhill County Hospital was approved independently for first period training.

During the year Scarborough Second Period Training School closed down. The following second period training institutions were approved:—

Bedford General Hospital; Clacton and District Maternity Hospital (in conjunction with Colchester Maternity Hospital); Hexham, Dilston Hall Maternity Hospital; Nantwich, Barony Hospital; Sale and Brooklands War Memorial Hospital; Wigan, Billinge Hospital; Windsor, King Edward VII Hospital; Wrexham, Trevalyn Manor Maternity Hospital.

Inspection of Training by Educational Supervisors.

During the year the Board's Educational Supervisors have made 182 visits. Of these 174 were routine visits which are made approximately every two years to all training schools, and eight were visits to hospitals applying for the first time for approval as training schools.

Experimental Training Schemes.

Experimental training schemes, where the two periods of training were linked at selected centres, have been continued at the following schools:—

Birmingham, Marston Green Maternity Hospital; Liverpool, Sefton General Hospital; Rochdale, Birch Hill Hospital; Salvation Army Mothers' Hospital; Southampton General Hospital.

Examinations for Pupil-midwives.

During the year under review, of 5,180 entrants for the First Examination and of 3,280 entrants for the Second Examination, all but 192 and 149 respectively were nurses on the general or sick children's part of the register of the General Nursing Council. The corresponding figures for candidates not registered as nurses in these categories entering for the examinations last year were 215 and 162 respectively.

Midwife Teachers Diploma Examination.

Non-residential courses of instruction were conducted in London, Birmingham and Manchester. During the year the eighth and ninth residential courses were held at the Midwife Teachers Training College, High Coombe, Kingston Hill, Surrey. In addition a course of instruction, confined to staff, was held at the City of London Maternity Hospital.

Part I of the Midwife Teachers Diploma Examination was held in May/June and November/December, and of 148 candidates, 57 were successful.

Part II was held in July and January, 1955, and of 101 candidates, 55 were successful.

Midwife Teachers Training College.

The Board continued to be represented on the Council of the Midwife Teachers Training College and to provide secretarial assistance for it. Of the 32 candidates from the eighth and ninth courses who entered for Part I of the examination during the year, 17 were successful, and of the 17 who entered for Part II, 10 were successful.

Rules of the Board.

As already stated the Rules Sub-committee completed its revision of the Board's rules during the year. The draft was circulated to interested bodies and their comments were taken into consideration in preparing the final draft. The rules were approved by the Minister of Health on January 24th, 1955, in Statutory Instrument, 1955, No. 120, and came into operation on February 1st. The Board are continuing to publish their handbook containing the rules approved by the Minister, together with the notices concerning the midwife's code of practice, which are not rules. The following is a summary of the main alterations that have been made in the course of revision of the rules:—

In Section A, containing the rules governing the conduct of the Board, no substantial change has been made.

In Section B, containing the rules regulating the course of training and the conduct of examinations for admission to the Roll of Midwives, the Board have given a general summary of the subjects on which pupil-midwives will be examined, eliminating much of the detail formerly included. In order to enable the midwife fully to carry out the work which may come within her ambit, the Board have included the teaching of mothercraft, infant care and the principles of nutrition in the syllabus for second period training.

The Board have raised to 50 years the upper age limit for entering midwifery training to permit of the recruitment of older women.

In Section C of the Rules, dealing with the grant of the Midwife Teachers Diploma, the Board have eliminated most of the details of the syllabus formerly included, and given only a general indication of the subjects of the examinations. Detailed syllabuses will be issued in the form of a memorandum.

The requirements for candidates for the Midwife Teachers Diploma Examination have been altered, so that a candidate may commence her course of instruction after she has been actively engaged in the practice of midwifery for only one year. Although a candidate may sit the examination at any time following, she shall not receive the Diploma until she has been certified as a midwife for a period of three years, and has either spent two of these years in an approved training institution or has obtained other teaching experience approved by the Board.

Section D, which concerns the disciplinary powers of the Board, has been amended in order to give a midwife who is cited to appear before the Board a longer period in which to prepare her answer. The specimen charges in the First Schedule to this Section, which had become out of date, have been deleted.

In Section E, which deals with the regulation, supervision and restriction within due limits of the practice of midwives,

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