

some of the parts have been amalgamated for the avoidance of undue repetition.

Rules 12, 25 and 35 in this section have been drafted to cover the use of Trichloroethylene B.P. by midwives on their own responsibility, and all references to "nitrous oxide and air" have been replaced by the term "inhalational analgesic" which covers both nitrous oxide and air and trichloroethylene.

The Notices concerning a midwife's code of practice are not Rules, but a midwife is advised that failure to maintain the standard of practice in her professional work which the Notices indicate may render her liable to a charge of negligence or misconduct and to the removal of her name from the Roll of Midwives.

The Notices have been amended in detail and a new Notice, No. 10, concerning the calling in of medical aid by a midwife, has been inserted.

No alterations have been made in Section F, which is concerned with the suspension of midwives from practice.

Section G has been amended to provide that compliance with the requirements of the rules concerning refresher courses shall be made obligatory as from January 1st, 1958. The Board have issued a memorandum of guidance on the subject, indicating the types of refresher course that will be eligible for approval under this section of the Rules, and this memorandum is at Appendix E of this Report.

In Section H for the first time the Rules prescribe the uniform which may be worn by certified midwives, in accordance with Section 4 (f) of the Midwives Act, 1951.

Administration of Trichloroethylene B.P. by Midwives on their own Responsibility.

During the year the Medical Research Council published its Report on the use of trichloroethylene B.P. by midwives, and the recommendations contained in the Report were accepted by the Board. As well as setting out the specifications to which the inhalers must conform, the Report recommended that each inhaler should be tested individually before being issued for use by midwives, and should be submitted for re-testing at specified intervals.

The Board gave approval to two types of trichloroethylene inhaler, the Tecota Mark 6 and the Emotril Trichloroethylene Automatic Inhaler. Arrangements were made for the National Physical Laboratory to undertake the testing of inhalers, and certificates covering those inhalers which successfully pass the test are issued by the Board. No inhaler which is not of the approved type may be used by a midwife on her own responsibility, and each inhaler which is in current use must be covered by a certificate issued by the Board, stating that it is fit for use by midwives.

The Board are satisfied that a simple demonstration of the working of the trichloroethylene inhaler should be sufficient for a midwife who is already trained in the administration of nitrous oxide and air analgesia. They have, however, amended the recommended syllabus of lectures on analgesia, emphasising in particular the possible dangers in a combination of analgesics, e.g., pethidine and trichloroethylene.

Nitrous Oxide and Air Analgesia.

The Board have continued with arrangements for the training of midwives and pupil-midwives in the administration of nitrous oxide and air analgesia. The number of midwives authorised to administer it was as follows at March 31st, 1955:—

Certificates issued by hospital... ..	2,205
Persons trained under the Board—	
(a) before enrolment... ..	20,423
(b) after enrolment... ..	7,532
Persons trained outside England and Wales... ..	1,110
Total number of midwives proficient... ..	31,270

Of this total 13,694 were in practice in 1954-55. On March 31st, 1955, there were 260 institutions approved by the Board to provide this training.

National Uniform for Midwives.

Since February 1st, 1948, the Board have issued 4,966 uniform permits to midwives to enable them to acquire part or all of the approved uniform. Of this number 181 were issued during the year under review.

Apportionment of Contributions between the Local Health Authorities under Section 23 of the Midwives Act, 1951.

The levies on the local health authorities of England and Wales to meet the deficiency in the Board's revenue for the year 1954, collected by apportionment amongst the various authorities, amounted to £21,178 18s. 11d., as against £19,212 11s. 5d. for 1953.

August, 1955

(Sgd.) ARNOLD WALKER,
Chairman.

(Sgd.) R. J. FENNEY,
Secretary.

Births and Deaths in September Quarter, 1955.

THE REGISTRAR GENERAL has announced* the provisional figures of births and deaths in England and Wales in the third quarter of 1955.

Live Births.

Live births registered numbered 166,584, representing a rate of 14.9 per thousand population. Comparable figures for the September quarters of 1954 and 1953 were 166,938 (rate 15.0) and 172,943 (rate 15.6) respectively.

Deaths.

There were 101,647 deaths registered in the September quarter, 1955, representing a rate of 9.1 per thousand population. The rates for the third quarters of 1954 and 1953 were 9.3 and 8.9 respectively.

* The Registrar General's Weekly Return No. 41, 1955. H.M.S.O. price 1s. net (or by post from P.O. Box 569, London, S.E.1., price 1s. 1½d.).

THE KINGDOM WITHIN.

Give me a view where there's no house in sight
Or work of man to cloud the vista bright,
No cab nor car with noise to deaf the ear
Nor smell of oil to blot the crystal weir,
No folk to rush with thoughts on one end bent
To make their bit and making; then is spent
On noise and speed, cheap wit and things that die.
Why do they thus and so pass beauty by?

Give me a hill where graze the quiet sheep,
Where I can see the ocean blue and deep,
There in sweet peace where beauty puts her crown
There let me rest and lay my tired head down,
Where thyme and daisies make a pillow soft.
And like the lark, my thoughts are borne aloft
Where I can think, no evil things to mar
Or check the course of thought by world's jar.

Give me to know that, though my hill is far,
I can withdraw within where peace and comfort are,
That, though my sore eyes ache for sight of Sussex Downs,
Yet, peace is in one's heart innured from all men's frowns—
Peace where God's Kingdom has its sacred part,
Finds hold within the willing human heart
No noise or sights without destroy this inner life,
It is the Mind alone that overcometh strife.

GRACE PURSGLOVE.

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