

The Midwife.

Central Midwives Board.

First Examination.

FEBRUARY 2ND, 1955. From 2 to 5 p.m.

1. Describe a twin placenta at term. Why are the placenta and membranes examined so carefully after delivery ?
2. What are the reasons for vaginal bleeding during the last three months of pregnancy? Describe your emergency care of a patient with this condition.
3. What are the causes and signs of foetal distress during labour?
4. Discuss the nursing care of a mother the day after her delivery.
5. What examination of the newborn do you make at birth? Give your reasons.
6. Give the reasons for the measures which are adopted to avoid infection in a maternity unit.

Central Midwives Board.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM ON THE 21ST EDITION OF THE RULES

A COMPLETE AMENDMENT of the Rules of the Central Midwives Board has now been approved by the Minister of Health (Statutory Instrument 1955 No. 120).

Section 30 (2) of the Midwives Act, 1951, provides that the Minister's approval of rules made by the Board shall be in the form of a Statutory Instrument. The Board are, however, continuing to publish the handbook containing the rules approved by the Minister, together with the notices concerning the midwife's code of practice, which are not Rules, and also an introduction and index.

Section A sets out the Rules governing the conduct of the Board.

Section B contains the Rules regulating the course of training and the conduct of examinations for admission to the Roll of Midwives. The Board have sought to simplify the syllabus for the first period of training by indicating general standards and have, moreover, included some specific details of the syllabus for the second period of training. In order to enable the midwife fully to carry out the work which may fall to her in the future organisation of the health service, the Board have included the teaching of mothercraft, infant care and the principles of nutrition in the syllabus for second period training.

Following the recommendations of the Working Party on Midwives concerning the recruitment of older women, the Board have raised the upper age limit for entering midwifery training.

Section C of the Rules concerns the granting of the Midwife Teachers Diploma. The Board have removed the details of the syllabus from the Rules, and it is their intention to indicate some details in a circular letter or 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.

Section E is the section of the Rules regulating, supervising and restricting within due limits the practice of midwives. Some of the parts of this section have now been amalgamated, so that each part refers to midwives who are either practising as such or acting as maternity nurses. Part I of the section still applies to all midwives, whether actively engaged in maternity work or not, and the remaining three parts are as follows :—

Part II relates to all midwives practising as such or acting as maternity nurses in domiciliary practice ; Part III relates to midwives in an institution which has a resident medical officer and where the number of maternity beds is 15 or more, and applies to all midwives engaged on maternity work in such institutions, irrespective of the degree of direction and personal supervision exercised by the resident medical officer or other registered medical practitioner ; and Part IV relates to all midwives practising as such or acting as maternity nurses in an institution (including a nursing home) which does not fulfil the requirements of Part III.

Rules 12, 25 and 35 in this section have been drafted to cover the recommendations of the Committee which has investigated 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.

Forms (a) and (g) in the Schedule to Section E have now been revised.

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 the former Notice No. 2, which gave an example of treatment outside a midwife's province, has been deleted. A new Notice No. 10, concerning the calling in of medical aid by a midwife, has been inserted.

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

Section G. This section 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 are issuing 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.

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.

MEMORANDUM ON THE RULES FRAMED BY THE BOARD UNDER SECTION 4 (1) (D) OF THE MIDWIVES ACT, 1951, REQUIRING MIDWIVES AND SUPERVISORS OF MIDWIVES TO ATTEND FROM TIME TO TIME A COURSE OF INSTRUCTION APPROVED BY THE BOARD.

1. The Central Midwives Board, in the exercise of the powers conferred upon them by Section 4 (1) (d) of the Midwives Act, 1951, have framed rules requiring midwives to attend from time to time courses of instruction approved

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