

The Midwife.

Midwifery in Cape Colony.

The Under Colonial Secretary, Cape Town, has notified for general information that his Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve the subjoined Amended Regulations framed and adopted by the Colonial Medical Council:—

REGULATIONS.

The Regulations for Midwives—framed by the Colonial Medical Council—under Section 12 of the Medical and Pharmacy Amendment Act, 1899, are as follows:—

MIDWIVES.

A.—The Council may grant Certificates for Registration after due examination to persons who shall satisfy the examiners, appointed for the purpose by the Council, of their competence, skill, and fitness for the practice of a midwife's calling; provided that they can at the same time supply the following documents:—

- (a) A certificate from a Medical Practitioner or a Minister of Religion or a Magistrate as to good character.
- (b) A certificate signed by a Medical Practitioner to the effect that the applicant's state of health is such that no danger to her patients would be involved by her admission to practise as a Registered Midwife.
- (c) A certificate to the effect that she has for a period of at least three months regularly attended the practice of a recognised lying-in institution approved by the Council, together with a course of lectures upon midwifery, and that she has during the said period conducted under the direction of a Medical Practitioner or a registered Midwife at least fifteen cases.

B.—The Examination, which shall be (1) oral, and (2) written and practical, shall include:—

1. The elementary anatomy of the female pelvis and generative organs.
2. The symptoms, mechanism, course, and the management of natural labour.
3. The indications and management of abnormal labour, and the emergencies which occur in practice.
4. Hæmorrhage, its varieties, and the treatment of each.
5. Antiseptics in midwifery, and the way to use them.
6. The management of the puerperal state, including the use of the thermometer and the use of the catheter.
7. Elementary knowledge of the diseases of the lying-in period.
8. The management (feeding included) of newborn children.
9. The duties of the Midwife with regard to the patient, and with regard to the seeking of medical advice.

C.—Registered Midwives will be required to observe carefully the following regulations:—

1. No Midwife will be allowed to administer any drugs or to use or apply any instruments except those expressly ordered under regulation No. 2.
2. Every Midwife shall be required to use antiseptics, and will be permitted to use the catheter and vaginal douche, and ergot where specially indicated.
3. Any Registered Midwife requiring ergot under the previous sub-section shall furnish proof to the chemist by whom it is dispensed that she is a Registered Midwife.
4. All Registered Midwives shall be required to keep a simple register, embodying the name and address of parent, sex of child, date of birth, and result of accouchement to mother and child.

D.—An examination shall be held in the months of June and December in each year at such centres as the Council shall from time to time determine, provided there are candidates, and no person whose application is not lodged with the Secretary to the Council on or before the 1st May and 1st November respectively, can be accepted as a candidate for the next ensuing examination, except by the special permission of the Council.

E.—The Council shall, from time to time, appoint such examiners as may be required to conduct the examination, who shall conform to such rules as the Council may from time to time resolve upon the conduct of the examination, and who shall receive such scale of remuneration of the Council may from time to time determine. Examiners appointed at local centres need not be members of the Council.

F.—The fee for examination shall be £2. Candidates who have failed to pass the examination at the first attempt may be allowed to present themselves on a second or subsequent occasion, upon payment of one-half of the original fee for every such occasion.

Proposed Legislation for Midwives in Baltimore.

A committee of prominent Baltimore men and women has been appointed as a result of a recent meeting in that city to secure legislation to govern the work of midwives. Miss Alice H. Small, who investigated the question on behalf of the Evening Dispensary for Working Women and Girls and the Mothers' Relief Society, has found that there are 150 midwives in Baltimore, 99 having no diplomas, 37, or 14.6 per cent. being able neither to read nor write, 46 using no antiseptics on hands or instruments, three using a weak solution of nitrate of silver in the eyes of the new-born. The higher percentage of illiteracy among the midwives of Baltimore as compared with New York and

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