

to infants for the first fortnight; they should be started with 2 parts of water to 1 of milk. The proportion may then be raised to 3 parts of water to 2 of milk, and at the end of the second month the normal healthy infant will be quite prepared to digest equal parts of milk and water, with the appropriate addition of lactalbumin and sugar. The amount of each feed must be regulated according to the weight of the infant, as explained earlier in this paper.

The use of lactalbumin in the artificial feeding of infants is a comparatively new procedure. The recorded observations already made with it convince one that its action in the modification of cow's milk promises to supersede all the other devices which are in vogue for making such milk suitable for infants. When a new-born infant is started upon its career of hand feeding the practitioner is always anxious as to whether the bottle will agree. My own observations have impressed me very firmly with the conviction that these anxieties may be dispelled when the milk is modified with soluble lactalbumin. It gives a sense of security which is otherwise only felt when breast feeding is being employed. Previously in my own practice, if an infant showed any signs of dyspeptic discomfort in its early days of artificial feeding it usually meant that there would be much ringing of the changes before a suitable milk mixture could be found. But after having recourse to milk modification by means of lactalbumin it soon became evident that this method bore the palm, and that it is preferable to and more reliable than the use of citrated milk, peptonised milk, cream and whey feeding, and all other plans which have been adopted to meet the frailty of infantile digestion.

PROSECUTION OF UNCERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

At the instance of the Lancashire County Council, on Monday, June 26th, at the Ashton-under-Lyne Borough Court, Mrs. Deborah Knowles, of 34, North Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, was fined 20s. and costs, and 21s. witnesses' expenses, for contravention of Section I. (2) of the Midwives' Act, 1902.

Mrs. Knowles was warned in 1910 by the County Council that she must cease to act as a midwife, but notwithstanding this, she continued to practice. This year she attended six women in childbirth, otherwise than under the direction of a qualified medical practitioner.

THE C.M.B. EXAMINATION.

At the examination of the Central Midwives' Board on June 14th, 625 candidates were examined, and 511 passed the examiners. The percentage of failures was 18.2.

The Central Midwives Board.

THE NEW AND REVISED RULES.

An Order in Council has now been made approving a new and revised edition of the Rules of the Central Midwives' Board, which came into force on July 1st.

These Rules, price 6d. (postage extra), may be had on application to Messrs. Spottiswoode and Co., Ltd., 5, New Street Square, London, E.C., and every midwife should make a point of procuring a copy, and noting the alterations.

We have referred editorially to some of the most important points. Other points are, that before presenting herself for examination the candidate is required to produce evidence that she has nursed twenty infants as well as their mothers in the ten days following labour.

Next, the registered medical practitioners who sign the certificates of training, of candidates for the Central Midwives' Board Examination, must be approved by the Board for the purpose as midwives are now approved.

Candidates will require to know how to take a pulse as well as how to use the clinical thermometer and the catheter.

At a case the midwife must wear a dress of clean washable material, which can be boiled, such as linen, cotton, etc., and over it a clean washable apron or overall.

Rule E 5 provides that whenever a midwife has been in attendance, whether as a midwife or *as a nurse* upon a patient, or in contact with a person suffering from puerperal fevers or from any other condition supposed to be infectious, or is herself liable to be a source of infection, she must disinfect herself and all her instruments and other appliances, and must have her clothing thoroughly disinfected, to the satisfaction of the Local Supervising Authority, before going to any other maternity patient."

The rules thus directly touch those nurses who are on the Roll of the Central Midwives' Board, but never act or intend to act except as monthly nurses. A trained nurse naturally disinfects herself after contact with infection. Now, she must do so "to the satisfaction of the Local Supervising Authority."

Another new regulation is "Should the midwife for any reason continue her attendance after the tenth day the fact must be noted in her Register, with the explanation of the reason." She is also to take and record the pulse and temperature of the patient at each visit.

The period of suspension which may be imposed on a midwife by the Local Supervising Authority when necessary for the purpose of preventing the spread of infection, is not to be longer than that required by the midwife for the purpose of disinfecting herself, her clothing, and her appliances, "if the period is expected to, or does in fact, last for more than 24 hours, the Authority shall forthwith communicate to the Central Midwives' Board the special circumstances in which the prolonged suspension arises, and the matter shall be subject to revision by that Board."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)