

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD. NEW EDITION OF RULES.

The most recent edition of the Rules framed by the Central Midwives Board, under the Midwives Acts, 1902 and 1918, was published on Monday last.

The Minister of Health has approved an alteration in the rule of the Central Midwives Board, which makes Section 14 (1) of the Midwives Act, 1918, applicable to all cases in which a midwife calls in a doctor under the C.M.B. Rules.

CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH MEDICAL HELP MUST BE SENT FOR.

Rule E. 20 runs:—

"In all cases of illness of the patient or child, or of any abnormality occurring during pregnancy, labour, or lying-in, a midwife, as soon as she becomes aware thereof, must call in to her assistance a registered medical practitioner, using for this purpose the form of sending for medical help (see Rule 23 (a)), properly filled up and signed by her. The conditions referred to in this rule shall be deemed to be emergencies for the purpose of Section 14 of the Midwives Act, 1918."

NOTIFICATION TO THE LOCAL SUPERVISING AUTHORITY.

Rule 22 (1) (a) is as follows:—

"The midwife must, as soon as possible, send notice on the prescribed form to the Local Supervising Authority, in accordance with Rule 23, in the following cases:—

"(a) *Medical Help*.—Whenever the advice of a registered medical practitioner has been sought."

FORM OF SENDING FOR MEDICAL HELP.

The form of sending for Medical Help is then printed. Its use is compulsory and includes the No. of Form, the date of filling in, the name and address of the patient, the reason for which medical help is sought, whether or not the case is urgent, the name and address of the doctor or institution to whom the form is sent, the time of sending the message, whether by messenger or telephone, and the signature of the certified midwife sending for help.

The Rule further prescribes:—

"The midwife shall make two copies of the above making, with the original document, three forms in all. The original she shall keep, the second she shall send to the doctor, and the third she shall send to the Local Supervising Authority as soon as possible, but within twenty-four hours at the latest.

"The medical practitioner responding to this call will be paid by the Local Supervising Authority for his attendance in this case until the case is completed or until the Local Supervising Authority gives notice of terminating its liability (whichever shall first happen) according to the following scale:—

SCALE OF FEES FOR DOCTORS CALLED IN BY MIDWIVES.

1. Fee for all attendances of a doctor at parturition (*i.e.*, from the commencement of labour until the child is born) whether operative assistance or not is involved, including all subsequent visits during the first ten days, inclusive of the day of birth, £2 2s.

2. Fee for attendance of a second doctor to give an anaesthetic, whether on account of abortion or miscarriage, at parturition or subsequently, £1 1s.

3. Fee for suturing the perinaeum, for the removal of adherent or retained placenta, for exploration of the uterus, for the treatment of postpartum haemorrhage, or for any operative emergency arising directly from parturition including all subsequent necessary visits during the first ten days, inclusive of the day of birth, £1 1s.

This fee not to be payable when the fee under No. 1 is payable.

4. Fee for attendance at or in connection with an abortion or miscarriage, including all subsequent visits during the ten days after, and including the first visit, £1 1s.

5. Fee for visits to mother and child not included under 1-4. Day (9 a.m. to 8 p.m.), 5s. Night (8 p.m. to 9 a.m.), 10s.

6. The usual mileage fee of the district to be paid for all attendance under Nos. 1-5 of this scale.

7. No fee shall be payable by the Local Supervising Authority:—

(1) Where the doctor has agreed to attend the patient under arrangement made by or on behalf of the patient or by any club, medical institute, or other association of which the patient or her husband is a member.

(2) Where the doctor receives or agrees to receive a fee from the patient or her representative.

(3) In respect of any services performed by the doctor after the expiry of one month after the day of birth.

Midwives should procure a copy of these rules, which may be obtained through any bookseller, price 6d.

ORDER FOR YOUR LIBRARY.

When ordering books for the library for your midwifery training school, do not forget *Midwifery*, by Archibald Donald, M.A., M.D.; price, 6s.; published by Messrs. Griffin & Co., Ltd., Exeter Street, Strand, W.C. 2.

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