

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

EXAMINATION PAPER.

October 1st, 1923.

CANDIDATES ARE ADVISED TO ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS.

1. Describe the brim of the pelvis and give the measurements of its chief diameters.
2. Describe in detail your method of abdominal examination of a primigravida at the thirty-sixth week of pregnancy.
3. Under what circumstances during pregnancy, labour and lying-in might you be required to pass a catheter?
What catheter will you use and what are the risks of this procedure?
4. What precautions would you take for the prevention of Ophthalmia Neonatorum?
What are the midwife's duties in cases where the eyes are affected?
5. Enumerate the advantages of breast feeding. In the event of failure to breast-feed, state—
(a) The directions to the midwife given in the Rules.
(b) The exact instructions you would give to the mother for the artificial feeding of her baby when you cease attendance.
6. Describe in detail your management of the Third Stage of labour and your examination of the placenta and membranes.

MIDWIFERY POSTS IN IRELAND.

Miss K. N. Price, the Assistant Secretary of the Irish Nurses and Midwives' Union, expresses the hope in the Press "that no midwife will be foolish enough or mean enough to her fellow-nurses to apply for either of the two posts of dispensary midwife in Kerry, advertised this morning, at £30 a year each. Nurses often have the idea that once they secure a post that it will be easy afterwards to get the salary increased, but such is not the case. The fact that nurses seem willing to accept such hopelessly inadequate salaries is one of the strongest arguments brought against this Union in its efforts to reform.

"Our standard salary scale commences at £75, and this has been granted by several local authorities, although still refused sanction by the L.G.D., who seem to approve of forcing dispensary midwives to gain their living by charging fees to the poor, instead of instructing them to procure tickets. They are called part-time employés, and are expected to supplement their salaries by private practice, for which they have to compete with other private nurses, whose whole time is free for their patients, while the district midwife has to leave a private case if called out on a ticket.

"Even the L.G.D. are willing to sanction a scale commencing at £55 in some counties, and we very much hope there will be no applications at the salary offered in Kerry. If there are, the public may rest assured that they are only from the lowest grade of the profession, persons who have not been able to procure work elsewhere. While that kind of attendance may have been considered good enough for the poor by past authorities, we do not think the present Government ought to countenance the continuance of such a system."

INFANT FEEDING IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT RESEARCH.

The problem of artificial feeding of infants in those cases where natural feeding is contra-indicated is a most important one, for upon a right decision rests to a great extent the health of the child.

In attempting to replace a natural food with a laboratory prepared one, Messrs. Allen & Hanburys point out in an interesting pamphlet on "Infant Feeding in the Light of Recent Research," that it is necessary not only to have in view the chemical and physiological principles, but also the different circumstances in which the product will be used; different inasmuch as the child, by taking its mother's milk gets a food containing all the elements necessary for nutrition and free from contamination, this demanding no skill or knowledge on the part of the mother.

"With any substituted food, however, the factor of the preparation of the feeds must be considered, with the probability or practical certainty of some contamination taking place in the process.

"Consequently we must regard it as axiomatic that an artificial food must be (in character and composition) similar to the natural food; (2) readily digestible and assimilable; (3) perfectly pure; free from pathogenic organisms and spores; the liability to contamination in preparing the food for use reduced to a minimum. (4) Easy and simple of preparation so as to be readily and properly prepared by anyone." Milk substitutes in a dry form, containing all the food constituents of cow's milk properly modified, form the best substitute, and Allenburys Foods prepared in the light of present-day knowledge are ideal in this respect.

How to Manage Husbands.

"How do you manage this husband of yours?" was asked of a wife at Ealing Police Court.

Wife: "I am always careful to appeal to his vain-glorious points."

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