

The Midwife.

MIDWIFERY STANDARDS IN CHINA.

Our readers will be interested to know the latest development on this important subject in China.

We learn from *The Quarterly Journal for Chinese Nurses*:

First. The Government is taking up the question under the Ministry of Health and making an intensive study of the whole subject.

The National Medical Association has invited the China Medical Association and the Nurses' Association of China to appoint representatives to meet with their representatives on a United Committee for preparing a Memorandum on the training and practice of Midwifery for recommendation to the Government. The invitation has been accepted and the representatives appointed.

This United (tripartite) Committee of the N.M.A., C.M.A., and N.A.C. are now at work on this important subject and the report of the Committee will be given later.

Second. A Meeting of the Joint Committee of the C.M.A. and N.A.C. was held in Hankow, in January 1929, and the following resolutions were carried unanimously:—

(1) "That the Joint Committee views with satisfaction the projected measures of the National Government for the training of midwives; and recommends the N.A.C. and C.M.A. to co-operate in every way possible in this work, and to urge their members to participate in it in their local areas."

(2) "That the consideration of the joint scheme for the granting of midwifery diplomas, now before the Association, be delayed till the action of the Government with regard to midwifery training be announced."

"That in the meantime the N.A.C. carry on its examinations (for midwifery) as previously."

These resolutions of the Joint Committee have been approved by the N.A.C. Executive Committee, and were also passed by the C.M.A. Conference held in Shanghai in February 1929.

(The "Joint Scheme for the granting of midwifery diplomas" as referred to in resolution No. (2) refers to the "Scheme" as printed in the last Conference Report. This "Scheme" has never gone into effect.)

Third. For the benefit of those interested in midwifery, the N.A.C. rules for the examinations in midwifery, are given below, and have to do only with N.A.C. nurses trained in N.A.C. Schools. The N.A.C. is carrying on this plan of registration and examinations only until such time as the work shall be taken over by the Government.

Examinations in Midwifery.

Candidates for special N.A.C. diploma in midwifery shall comply with the following resolutions:—

(1). They shall not be less than twenty-one years of age. Special cases may be considered by the Examining Board.

(2). They must already hold the diploma of the Association for proficiency in nursing. The fee for examination shall be \$2.00.

(3). The examination in midwifery cannot be taken less than one year after the nursing examination.

(4). They must present a written statement signed by the staff of their School of Nursing that they have satisfactorily delivered and attended at least twenty cases of confinement.

(5). They shall be required to pass the examination in midwifery which shall be both oral and written.

(6). A minimum of 70 per cent. marks on the whole shall be required in order to pass, and 85 per cent. must be obtained to secure "honours."

(7). The Examiners for the N.A.C. Midwifery Diploma

must be a nurse who is also a graduate in Midwifery (and a member of the N.A.C.), and a doctor; or two doctors.

The examinations are given in December every year.

The Syllabus for Examination in Midwifery is similar to that in force under the Central Midwives Board in this country.

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN CHILDBIRTH.*

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS; THEIR CONDUCT AND SCOPE.

In connection with the campaign against Maternal Mortality the Ministry of Health have issued a useful Memorandum on Ante-Natal Clinics.

INTRODUCTORY CONSIDERATIONS.

It is acknowledged that, speaking generally, the present standard of ante-natal care remains below what is required for safeguarding the mother, even within the limits of our present knowledge. Some pregnant women receive no ante-natal supervision at all, and there is reason to believe that in other cases the supervision is so insufficient that harm may be done by giving a false sense of security.

It is important to obtain for every pregnant woman a high standard of examination and treatment, and it appears certain that a definite standard for such work would be helpful to those responsible for organising and administering ante-natal clinics, as a further step in the reduction of the present high mortality rate. The adequacy of such clinics necessarily affects the whole of the work done for the pregnant woman, not only at the present time, but in the future, since a proportion at least of these clinics are attended by medical students and pupil midwives, and the educational effects are thus far reaching.

PRINCIPLES OF ANTE-NATAL CARE.

1. Every pregnant woman should receive sufficient ante-natal care to ensure that a difficult labour will be foreseen as far as this can be done by efficient examination. Such examination should include not only the pelvic and abdominal organs, but the general physical condition: the home conditions of the patient should be investigated as well.

2. Every woman should receive sufficient ante-natal supervision to ensure the early detection and treatment of toxæmia within the limits of our present knowledge.

3. Ante-natal care should include measures directed against infection (e.g., dental care, the treatment of infection of the cervix), and measures increasing the resistance to infection, as well as directions as to preparations for labour and the puerperium.

4. Measures should be taken to include within the scope of ante-natal care the diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases.

5. The closest co-operation should be maintained between the clinic and all persons in whose charge the pregnant woman may be during pregnancy, labour and the puerperium.

6. In order that the high standard of ante-natal care which is necessary may be maintained by midwife and doctor, the educational effect of a well-organised clinic must always be kept in mind.

The Queen, attended by the Lady Ampthill, recently visited Queen Mary's Maternity Home, Hampstead.

* Published by His Majesty's Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, price 1d. net.

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