

It is clear that the present position is unsatisfactory. The preliminary investigation is made by the Local Supervising Authority who knows the circumstances of the case, and is in a position to collect the necessary evidence and in fact does so. It then reports, if necessary, to the Central Midwives Board that a *prima facie* case has been established, whereupon the Board's solicitor collects evidence afresh, secures the attendance of witnesses, or statutory declarations in its support, prepares the case for the prosecution, and on the appointed day presents it to the Board.

The Midwives Acts Committee of the L.C.C. has, we think, reason on its side when, as a Local Supervising Authority, it is dubious, even if it has to bear the expense of prosecutions it will be involved in additional expense, because if the expense is borne by the Central Midwives Board this will come out of the annual deficit collected by the Board from the Local Authorities of which it pays a considerable proportion.

We strongly support the opinion that the Minister of Health should be asked to promote legislation to empower Local Supervising Authorities to conduct the prosecution of midwives before the Central Midwives Board, in those cases originating with them. Indeed we would go further, and, in addition to giving them the power to prosecute, place upon them the responsibility of doing so.

We are glad to note that the London County Council adopted the Recommendation of its Midwives Act Committee, and decided to approach the Minister.

Power should be obtained to compel Attendance of Witnesses.

Another important point, which, in our view should receive consideration in any amending legislation in regard to penal procedure, is that power should be obtained to compel the attendance of witnesses. At present the Central Midwives Board has no such power, with the result that, however desirable it is that a witness should attend, he cannot be required to do so. His evidence has to be procured in the form of a Statutory Declaration, and there is no means of subjecting him to cross examination—an obviously unsatisfactory state of affairs.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

MIDWIFE-TEACHERS' EXAMINATION.

OCTOBER 24TH, 1932.

Midwifery—I—10 a.m.-1 p.m.

General Instruction.—As the object of this Examination is to test both the knowledge of the candidate and her ability to express herself clearly and impart knowledge to others, the questions should as far as possible be answered as if she were teaching a class or pupil.

Only five questions are to be answered.

1.—Describe the more important constituents of the blood. How would you explain the part taken by the blood in resisting bacterial infection?

2.—Indicate the instruction to be given to the mother in the physiology of the breast, with a view to increasing the chances of successful lactation.

3.—"Midwifery is a branch of Preventive Medicine." How would you illustrate this statement in your teaching?

4.—How would you meet the difficulties of your pupils in understanding the causes of delayed labour in the first stage?

5.—A pupil asks you why a piece of placenta is not always detached and left in utero. How would you answer this question?

6.—In your class of pupils there is one comparatively backward. What could you do to try and bring her up to the standard of the others?

Midwifery—II—2.5 p.m.

General Instruction.—As the object of this Examination is to test both the knowledge of the candidate and her ability to

express herself clearly and impart knowledge to others, the questions should as far as possible be answered as if she were teaching a class or pupil.

Only five questions are to be answered.

1.—How would you explain to a pupil who is not a trained nurse the significance of albumen in the urine?

What conditions of the urine may make it more difficult to decide whether or not albumen is present?

2.—A pupil is making a vaginal examination in the second stage of labour under your supervision. How would you instruct her to make this examination systematically and to recognise what she feels?

3.—Give notes of a lecture on the management of the third stage of labour, stating which points you would particularly emphasise.

4.—What points would you emphasise when demonstrating an occipito-posterior position to a class of pupils in the antenatal department?

5.—How would you demonstrate to a pupil in the absence of a patient the diagnosis of an oblique lie and the effect of the unrectified lie on the subsequent course of labour?

6.—A patient admitted to Hospital after an unsuccessful attempt to deliver with the forceps in her home dies in the Institution from septic infection. What lessons should be impressed on the pupils from such a disaster?

OCTOBER 25TH, 1932.

Midwifery—Public Health, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

General Instruction.—As the object of this Examination is to test both the knowledge of the candidate and her ability to express herself clearly and impart knowledge to others, the questions should as far as possible be answered as if she were teaching a class or pupil.

Only six questions are to be answered.

1.—What instructions would you give to your pupils with regard to a midwife's responsibilities in connection with notification and registration of births?

2.—You are an Inspector of Midwives employed by a Local Supervising Authority, and you receive information from a doctor that a certain midwife, practising in the area for which you are responsible, is attending several cases of Penphigus Neonatorum. Explain precisely the steps you would take to deal with the situation.

3.—What instruction would you give to your pupils with regard to the condition of the home and its occupants to be noted on paying an antenatal visit to a patient's house and what steps would you tell your pupils to take in order to deal with home conditions likely to be unfavourable to mother or child at the time of confinement?

4.—An unmarried pregnant woman, being obliged to return to work as soon as possible after confinement, has made arrangements for a foster-mother to receive her baby when ten days old. What points in connection with this case should form the subject of special instruction to the pupil midwife, whose patient the woman will be?

5.—A pupil midwife hopes, after obtaining her Certificate, to open a Maternity Home to accommodate about six cases, and asks your advice on the matter. What advice will you give her as to the law relating to Maternity Homes, and as to the probable requirements she would have to meet?

6.—Set out briefly what you would instruct your pupils regarding:—

(a) The duties of the following officers:—

(i) An Inspector of Midwives;

(ii) A Health Visitor;

(iii) A Lady Almoner of a Hospital.

(b) The functions of the following Bodies:—

(i) The Ministry of Health;

(ii) The Central Midwives Board;

(iii) A Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts.

7.—Draw up an outline of a lecture on neonatal mortality, and the midwife's part in its reduction.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)