

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

THE NEW RULES.

The new Rules framed by the Central Midwives Board under Section E (Regulating, Supervising and Restricting within due limits the Practice of Midwives) have been approved by the Minister of Health, and come into force on the first day of October, 1934. It therefore behoves all certified midwives, and more especially all practising midwives, to procure these, and acquaint themselves with their provisions.

Together with the Rules a very helpful Explanatory Memorandum is supplied, and the two together may be obtained from Messrs. Spottiswoode, Ballantyne and Co., Ltd., 1, New Street Square, London, E.C.4, price 6½d.

We draw attention to the more important of the new Rules.

Rule 4.

When a midwife has accepted responsibility for attendance on a patient in her confinement she shall be personally responsible for seeing that all the Rules appropriate to the case are observed, notwithstanding that the patient is actually attended or delivered by another midwife or other midwives under her direction or control. In such a case any midwife who actually attends upon or delivers the patient is also responsible for the observance of all the Rules.

EXPLANATION.

Rule 4 is an entirely new Rule and it renders the midwife who has accepted responsibility for a case liable to see that all the Rules appropriate to the case are observed, although, in fact, the actual work is undertaken by a midwife or midwives who act under her direction or control, but does not relieve the midwife who actually does the work from liability also to observe the Rules.

Rule 10 (b).

A midwife must not on her own responsibility use any drug unless, in the course of her obstetric training, whether before or after enrolment, she has been thoroughly instructed in its use and is familiar with its dosage and methods of administration or application.

Rule 31 (a).

A midwife must give the Local Supervising Authority every reasonable facility to enable it to inspect her register of cases and other records, her bag of appliances, her place of residence, and, when thought necessary by the Authority for preventing the spread of infection, her clothing and her person, and to enable it to investigate her mode of practice.

EXPLANATION.

The Board in their Explanatory Memorandum appear to feel some apprehension as to the acceptability of this Rule, for they say "conceivably some midwives may at first object to inspection of the person by the duly appointed officers of the Local Supervising Authority, but clearly there may be some occasions on which such an inspection is called for in order to prevent the spread of infection and it is felt that, provided the Local Supervising Authority proceeds tactfully, midwives will raise no objection to a procedure, the reason for which is to lessen the risk of serious illness to mothers and children."

We consider that when such inspection is thought to be necessary to prevent the spread of infection it should in every case be carried out by a Registered Medical Practitioner, and such provision should be made in the Rules. Otherwise midwives have every reason to object.

Rule 32.

The proper designation of a certified midwife is "State Certified Midwife."

A State Certified Midwife may, if she so desires, use the initial letters "S.C.M." in place of the above description, but the use of any other initial letters indicating a midwifery qualification is not permitted.

This Rule will, we feel sure, meet with general approval.

MIDWIFE-TEACHERS' EXAMINATION, 1934.

The following is the list of candidates who have been successful at the first part of the recent Midwife-Teachers' Examination conducted by the Central Midwives Board.

Winifred Atkins, District Midwifery Sister, University College Hospital.

Agnes Baker, Maternity Ward Sister, Liverpool Royal Infirmary.

Florence Campion, Superintendent, Gloucester District Nursing Society.

Mary Carpenter, Theatre and Clinic Sister, Stoke-on-Trent City Maternity Hospital.

Olive Catley, Maternity Sister, Oldchurch Hospital, Romford.

Louisa Annie Clements, Sister, City Hospital, Derby.

Margaret Isabella Costain, Sister, Mile End Maternity Hospital, Stockport.

Mildred Ada Forder, Staff Nurse, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital.

Mary Agnes Gannon, Assistant Sister Tutor, Liverpool Maternity Hospital.

Marjorie Ada Harrop, Assistant, District Practice.

Annie Heavisides, Maternity Sister, St. James's Hospital, Balham.

Florence Augusta Johnson, Midwifery Sister, East End Maternity Hospital.

Doris Ellen Killick, on Staff of Post-Certificate School, Camberwell.

Alice Gwendoline Lewis, Sister, East End Maternity Hospital.

Edna Lancefield, Assistant Maternity Sister, Dudley Road Hospital, Birmingham.

Martha McKee, Sister Midwife, City of London Maternity Hospital.

Ethel May Marlow, Sister-in-Charge, Maternity Department, Woolwich War Memorial Hospital.

Kathleen Annie Newman, Charge Nurse, St. Thomas's Hospital.

Marjorie Georgina Perry, Maternity Ward Sister, Kingston and District Hospital.

Eva May Peters, Matron, St. Helen's Corporation Maternity Hospital.

Lucy Stella Rayner, Maternity Ward Sister, Paddington Hospital.

Bessie Renfrey, Maternity Sister, Sharoe Green Maternity Home, Preston.

Annie Kathleen Richards, Matron, Southsea Royal Naval Maternity Home.

Frances Rose Sinden, Labour Ward Sister, St. Andrew's Hospital, Bow.

Alice Maud Sleight, Staff Midwife, University College Hospital.

Eliza Symons, Sister, East End Maternity Hospital.

Gertrude Tunstall, Sister, Maternity Department, Walton Hospital, Liverpool.

Iris Annie White, Sister and Acting Sister Tutor, Jewish Maternity Hospital.

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