

The Midwife.

MIDWIFERY STATISTICS

The following report on the midwifery cases attended by the Queen's Nurses and Village Nurse-Midwives during 1933 has been received:—

Number of Queen's Nurses, 1,000 (an increase of 51).

Number of Village Nurse-midwives, 2,855 (an increase of 41).

Number of cases attended (No doctor engaged for confinement), 64,144 (decrease of 3,341).

Of 62,923 Cases, 14,044 were primiparae—23.3 per cent.

(The decrease in cases is partly accounted for by the fact that particulars of cases in Cumberland attended by village nurse-midwives are not available, which last year amounted approximately to 900.)

Ante-Natal Supervision.

The ante-natal supervision continues to improve, though in many cases too few visits have been made during the last two months of pregnancy.

Ten deaths occurred of women whose measurements were small, three of whom had been passed by a doctor as suitable to be undertaken by a midwife, and two refused further advice. Two died from sepsis following difficult instrumental delivery.

Of these ten:—

One died from sepsis following ruptured perineum and probable criminal interference.

One transferred to hospital for Caesarian Section.

One obstructed labour (hydrocephalus).

One shock from partially obstructed labour.

One septic pneumonia, together with puerperal sepsis following ruptured perineum.

Two Embolism.

One no difficulty reported.

Adequate supervision was not possible in the following cases which died:—

Six emergency cases.

Eleven booked within one month of delivery.

Three refused care.

Two were away from home during pregnancy.

Among the maternal deaths were 19 who appear to have been suffering from ill-health and for whom it would have been advisable for a doctor to be responsible.

Four tubercular.

One carcinoma of the liver.

Two ear trouble, one of whom refused to book a doctor.

One ulcerative colitis.

Three gave histories of ante or post-partum hemorrhage on previous occasions.

Four cardiac.

Four refused to book a doctor or to enter hospital.

There were 14 notified as being delivered prematurely, including the four patients suffering from tuberculosis.

Nine died undelivered.

90 (or 62 per cent.) died in hospital or Maternity Home.

There were 14 postmortem examinations, as against 13 and 11 in the two previous years.

From several sources reports have been received of deaths caused by lowered vitality and lack of resistance to any complications that may arise. The patients have not been able to procure sufficient nourishment during pregnancy and some were living in overcrowded or otherwise unsatisfactory homes. In 38 cases poverty-stricken homes were specially mentioned. In one area it appears to be difficult to obtain additional nourishment for expectant mothers on any but medical grounds, and it has been

urged that this should be available whenever the family income is insufficient to meet the added requirement of the mother during pregnancy.

Still Births	1,977—30.8 per 1,000
Neo-Natal Deaths	1,411—22 per 1,000

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

At the examination of the Central Midwives Board held in August last, 889 candidates were examined, and 671 satisfied the examiners. The percentage of failures was 245.

NO BLIND BABY IN BUCKS.

During the past two years, the National Institute for the Blind records, there has not been one blind child under five years of age in the whole of Buckinghamshire.

Out of a total blind population of 310 in the county, exactly 200 are over fifty years of age; and 111 of these 200 are over seventy years of age.

ALL DOING WELL.

A woman has given birth to eight children, seven boys and a girl, at Kwoen Yam Sha, in South China, says the *Bombay Chronicle*, and all of them are doing well.

She is Mrs. Tam Sing, wife of a Chinese boatman, and she is very happy because she believes that, in accordance with an ancient legend she has brought forth "seven stars and a moon."

The birth of seven sons is held to bring good luck, and that of a daughter solace and comfort to the mother throughout her life-time.

If the eight events happen all together, then the benefits must be correspondingly greater.

A MOTHER IN THE HOSPITAL.

Oh, lady, in the Hospital, the doctors say you keep
Forever fretting through the night,

When you should be asleep.

They tell me it is rest you need and still you toss about.
"My little boy is three years old and likes to scamper out
And will they keep an eye on him with so much danger near.
It's that which worries me," said she, "while I am lying
here.

"And will they starch his little shirts and keep him clean
and neat,

And will they keep away from him the things he musn't eat?
The doctors shake their heads at me and tell me I must rest.
But Sunday morning will they think to dress him in his best?
And do they know he musn't have much sugar on his bread?
It's things like that I fret about while lying here in bed.

"The doctors scold me when they call because I haven't
slept.

But have they found the little drawer where all his clothes
are kept,

And do they dust and sweep the rooms and shine the glass-
ware, too?

And have they changed the linen on the beds as I would do?
'Tis well for men to say, put fear to rout,
But mothers have so many things at night to think about."

C. M. B.

In *Ontario Hospital, London,
Canada, Year Book.*

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