

# The Midwife.

## QUEEN'S INSTITUTE OF DISTRICT NURSING.

### REPORT ON MIDWIFERY CASES

Attended by Queen's Nurses and Village Nurse-Midwives during the Year 1932.

The following interesting statistics have been supplied to us by the Queen's Institute of District Nursing:—

NUMBER OF QUEEN'S NURSES: 949; an increase of 84.

NUMBER OF VILLAGE NURSE-MIDWIVES: 2,814; a decrease of 96. Total difference, 12 less.

NUMBER OF CASES ATTENDED: 67,496 (no doctor engaged for confinement). This is an increase of 926 on the number of 1931.

NUMBER OF TIMES MEDICAL AID SENT FOR:—

For the mother .. .. . 7,695 = 26.2%

For the infant .. .. . 3,511 = 5.2%

For the mother during pregnancy .. .. . 5.8%

" " " " labour .. .. . 22.1%

" " " " puerperium .. .. . 4.4%

Details of 1,222 cases are not available for classification.

NUMBER OF FORCEPS CASES .. .. . 4,546 = 6.7%

The ante-natal supervision has, on the whole, been satisfactory. The number of occasions when medical aid was summoned during the ante-natal period is 5.8 per cent. in 1932 as compared with 4.1 per cent. in 1931, which shows that complications were recognised more frequently and every effort made to deal with them.

THE NUMBER OF MATERNAL DEATHS IS 144 (of which 34 or 23.6 per cent. were primiparæ and 36 or 25 per cent. had had 5 or more previous pregnancies). This is 2.1 per thousand as compared with 1.7 per thousand for 1931. The rates in urban and rural districts are exactly the same, viz., 2.1.

In the following cases adequate supervision was not possible: 10 emergency cases; 17 only booked the midwife within a month of delivery; 6 owing to a change of midwife; 6 owing to patient's refusal.

#### PARTICULARS OF DEATHS.

SEPSIS (41).—Amongst these were: 11 forceps deliveries; 8 ruptured perineums; 6 placental difficulties (of which 1 was removed manually); 3 cæsarean section; 1 laparotomy; 7 births before arrival of midwife; 1 twin labour; 1 infected by midwife (pyorrhæa); 1 infected by husband, who suffered from septic sores; 1 had taken abortifacient; 1 had gonorrhæal discharge; 1 had fæcal fistula (into vagina) from previous labour. In some cases more than one of these complications occurred.

ACCIDENTS OF LABOUR (43).—Amongst these were: 26 hæmorrhage (ante, post and secondary, including 5 placenta prævia and 12 placental difficulties with manual removal in 7 cases); 4 ruptured uterus; 3 cæsarean section; 10 shock or exhaustion (3 following craniotomy).

ECLAMPSIA (16)—of which 7 were primiparæ; 2 emergencies; 1 changed her address after booking and could not be found; 1 out of district till four days before labour; 7 had no apparent symptoms till within 48 hours or less of labour.

EMBOLISM (9)—of which 5 were associated with other diseases.

COMPLICATIONS (35)—2 appendicitis; 1 carcinoma; 7 cardiac; 2 cerebral symptoms; 5 influenza, kidney trouble, etc.

In 19 cases where death supervened there appears to have been considerable difficulty in persuading the patient to book with the doctor. Amongst these were: 4 tubercular;

1 advanced carcinoma of breast; 3 suffering from heart disease; 1 from pernicious anæmia; 1 patient was refused by a doctor as she was already in debt to him; 4 refused treatment that was advised.

Amongst the 144 deaths there were: 15 premature labours; 14 mothers died undelivered; 1 death occurred during removal to hospital; 86 deaths took place in hospital=59 per cent. of the total.

ANTE-NATAL.—9 small measurements (no record of ante-natal M.A.); 1 multipara died of sepsis ("failed forceps," cæsarean); 1 multipara died of heart failure (prolonged labour, forceps); 1 primipara died of heart failure (prolonged labour, forceps); 1 primipara died after obstructed labour (craniotomy). Of other 5, 2 primipara and 3 multipara, no difficulty reported. In addition, 3 others, 1 primipara and 2 multipara, attended clinics: 2 died after cæsarean and 1 of ruptured uterus. There were 13 post-mortem examinations as against 11 last year. Death certificates were verified where reports were available.

#### CAUSES OF MATERNAL DEATHS.

	1932.	1931.
Sepsis (41 cases) .. .. .	28.5%	26.2%
Accidents of labour (43 cases) .. .. .	29.2%	32.2%
Eclampsia (16 cases) .. .. .	11.2%	11%
Embolism (9 cases) .. .. .	6.3%	9.3%
Complications (35 cases) .. .. .	24.3%	21.1%

10 pneumonia; 3 scarlet fever; 1 status lymphaticus; 1 suicide; 3 tuberculosis. In a very few cases were malnutrition or really bad conditions reported. A few women were over-tired, or suffering from mental strain. STILL BIRTHS numbered 1,991, or 30 per thousand. NEO-NATAL DEATHS numbered 1,332, or 20 per thousand births attended.

#### MATERNITY NURSING.

NUMBER OF CASES ATTENDED (doctor engaged, midwife acting as maternity nurse)—29,572, which is a decrease of 552 on the number of 1931.

NUMBER OF MATERNAL DEATHS.—130=4.4 per 1,000. No details of doctor's cases are asked for; these figures cannot, therefore, be verified.

We are glad to note a substantial increase (84) in the number of Queen's Nurses, *i.e.*, State Registered Nurses, who are Certified Midwives attending midwifery cases; and a decrease (96) in the number of Village Nurse-Midwives so employed.

## MIDWIFE-TEACHERS' EXAMINATION, 1933.

### LIST OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.

The following list of the successful candidates at the recent Midwife-Teachers' Examination conducted by the Central Midwives Board has been supplied for publication.

	PASSED.
Name.	Post.
Queenie May Anstice	Sister-in-charge, Maternity Ward, St. Peter's Hospital, White-chapel.
Dorothy Beard	Matron, Middlesbrough Municipal Maternity Hospital.
May Gardner	District Sister, Maternity Nursing Association.
Harriet Gertrude Hall	Sister-in-charge, Maternity Ward, West Herts Hospital, Hemel Hempstead.

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