

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

We desire to draw the attention of State Certified Midwives to the twelfth edition of the Rules framed by the Central Midwives Board under the Midwives Acts, together with extracts from the Midwives Acts, 1902 and 1918, and seven leaflets bearing on the duties of a midwife. The Rules contain certain alterations and amendments and have been approved by the Minister of Health for a period of six months, which commenced on October 1st. It therefore behoves all midwives to procure and study them.

SECTION D.

Section D contains the Rules regulating the proceedings of the Board on complaints made to the Board relating to the conduct of a midwife, and on the restoration to the Roll of a name removed.

It is notified that the Board has no power to pay the expenses of Local Supervising Authorities incurred by them in undertaking the conduct of cases. If Local Supervising Authorities undertake the conduct of cases they must do so at their own expense.

In any other case the conduct of the case shall be undertaken by the Secretary or such other person as the Committee may direct.

SECTION E.

In Section E, the Rule 28 (a) has been amended and now runs:—

“A midwife shall not lay out a dead body except in the case of a patient upon whom she has been in attendance at the time of death in the capacity of midwife or nurse.”

In Rules 2 (a), 27 (b) and 33 (f) in Section E, alterations have also been made.

Rule 2 (a) now runs:—

“When a midwife is exercising her calling under the supervision of a duly appointed resident medical officer within a Hospital approved by the Central Midwives Board for the purpose of this Rule, she is not subject to Rules 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 26, 28 (b), 29, 31 (a) and 33, but otherwise is subject to all these Rules.”

N.B.—A footnote states: “It must be remembered that pupils trained in Institutions in which the midwives are not subject to the Rules in question are deprived of practical experience of carrying out such Rules and will require special instruction therein.”

Rule 27 (b) runs (in relation to “Duties to Child”):

“The midwife (unless she is practising in an Institution, in which case the notification herein prescribed may be made at any time before the patient is discharged from the Institution) must forthwith notify the Local Supervising Authority of each case in which it is proposed to substitute artificial feeding, using Form (f) of Rule 33.”

NOTE.

The attention of midwives is called to certain duties imposed upon them by statute, amongst them are the following:—

A midwife must not employ an uncertified person as her substitute.

Under the Births and Deaths Registration Acts and the Notification of Births Acts a midwife must in certain cases notify the Registrar of Births and Deaths and the Medical Officer of Health. The following is a summary of her duties under these Acts:—

It is the duty primarily of the father or mother to give to the Registrar of Births, within forty-two days after the

birth, information of the birth, whether the child is born alive or stillborn. In default of the father or mother this duty falls upon every person present at the birth, including the midwife, if present at the birth.

It is also the duty of the father and any person in attendance on the mother at the birth or within six hours after the birth, whether the child is born alive or stillborn, to notify the Medical Officer of Health for the district of the birth within thirty-six hours. A midwife can obtain free of charge by application to the Local Authority stamped postcards containing the proper form of notice.

In a case of stillbirth the midwife, if present at the stillbirth or if she has examined the body of the child, may give to the father or mother a certificate of stillbirth, unless a doctor gives such a certificate.

In case of death it is primarily the duty of the relatives to notify the Registrar, but in default of the relatives the duty falls upon any person present at the death.

For the purposes of the registration of births and deaths—

(a) a child born at any stage of pregnancy who breathes or shows other signs of life after complete expulsion from its mother is born alive. If such a child dies after birth both the birth and the death will require to be registered.

(b) a child who has issued forth from its mother after the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy and has not at any time after being completely expelled from its mother breathed or shown any sign of life is a stillborn child.

(c) the birth before the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy of a child who did not breathe or show signs of life after complete expulsion from its mother is neither a live birth nor a stillbirth, and need not be registered.

A DOMICILIARY SERVICE OF SALARIED MIDWIVES.

The recommendation of the Joint Council of Midwifery that every local authority should be required to secure throughout its area an adequate domiciliary service of salaried midwives is, we understand, being at present considered by the Minister of Health, who has asked the associations representing the local authorities to give him their views.

The London County Council have expressed general approval of the proposals of the Joint Council, subject to the payment of a grant in aid from national funds, but the County Councils Association and the Association of Municipal Corporations have not yet communicated their views to the Minister of Health.

TRUE TALE WITH A MORAL.

ALL SAINTS—AND ALL SINNERS.

I know of a church with its mullions and gables,
Its rood screen and reredos, its gargoyles and
groin,
Where the penitents' dresses are sealskins and
sables,
And the odour of Sanctity eau-de-cologne.

If only old Lucifer, flying from Hades,
Could gaze on this crowd with their perfumes
and paints,
He would say, looking down on the Lords and the
Ladies,
Why! where is All Sinners if this is All Saints?
(On All Saints' Church, Margaret Street, W.)

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