

recommendations of this report have been approved and adopted, and the Town Clerk (Mr. A. Pickard), the City Treasurer (Mr. C. H. Pollard) and the Medical Officer of Health were requested to prepare a joint scheme for consideration by the sub-committee.

Important features embodied in Dr. Gebbie's report for the municipal midwifery service are:—

The appointment of Superintendent Midwives in each area;

Allowance in the assessment of the time to be given by the midwife in each case for the extension of post-natal supervision from 10 to 14 days;

Arrangements for post-graduate courses.

An interesting feature of the situation in Hull is that there is already in existence in one area of the city a municipal midwifery service, and the new service will be in the nature of the Council's scheme which has already operated successfully for several years.

It is proposed that the maximum number of midwifery and maternity cases to be undertaken by each midwife under the scheme should be 80 per annum. In estimating this number an attempt has been made to ensure that each midwife's working week shall average 48 hours, exclusive of the period of her annual holiday.

From the nature of the work to be undertaken by municipal midwives under the scheme, it will be apparent that grouping in areas will be necessary for efficiency. It is suggested that four centres with a superintendent midwife in charge of each be selected—one each in Central, North, East and West Hull. Clinic premises are available in each of these areas to which midwives working in the area can bring their ante-natal cases.

Rates of remuneration of the midwives proposed in the scheme will conform to the following scale which has been drafted in accordance with the recommendation in Circular 1569 that such rates of remuneration should be comparable with those paid to Health Visitors:—

For midwives holding only the C.M.B. certificate: £180 per annum, rising by annual increments of £5 to £220 per annum.

Midwives with general training and C.M.B. certificate: £200 per annum, rising by annual increments of £5 to £235 per annum.

Superintendents: £260 per annum, rising by annual increments of £10 to £300 per annum.

In deciding the commencing salary of each midwife consideration will be given to her income during the previous five years.

Further provisions for the conditions of the service are as follows:—

Three weeks' holiday will be allowed annually.

Those eligible will be insured under the National Health Insurance Act.

In regard to superannuation a new scheme or alterations or additions to the existing scheme under the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, will be made to allow for all municipal midwives being included.

All midwives of 65 years of age or over will receive compensation in accordance with the terms of the Act. Midwives between 60 and 65 years of age, if suitable for engagement, will be compensated within three years in accordance with the terms of the Act.

The Act provides for the attendance of midwives employed under the scheme at approved courses of instruction, and it is suggested that, in Hull, arrangements be made for each midwife to attend such an approved course of one month's duration every five years.

Uniform will be provided by the local authority.

Bus tokens or bicycle allowance will be given as travelling allowances.

A limited telephone call service will be installed at the expense of the local authority.

Laundry will be provided for indoor uniform or an allowance for this purpose.

Bag equipment, dressings, etc., will be provided.

From the foregoing information, for much of which we are indebted to the *Public Assistance Journal and Health and Hospital Review*, it will be realised that the financial position of municipal midwives will be substantially improved under the 1936 Midwives Act. They will have a definite income secured to them, and three weeks' holiday in the year, together with other advantages, and the effect will no doubt be to attract better educated women to adopt midwifery as their profession, eventually, we may hope, holding the double qualification of State Registered Nurse as well as State Certified Midwife.

SCHEME FOR THE COUNTY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

It is very noticeable in all the proposals for carrying out the Midwives Act, 1936, that the expenses involved necessitate a greatly increased expenditure, and it may be hoped that the midwives who have so often worked for a miserable and uncertain pittance in the past will do so under conditions more commensurate with the importance of the national work which they have been carrying on for so many years.

Thus the Nottinghamshire County Council estimates that the additional expenditure involved for the period of eight months from August 1st to March 31st, 1938, will be £17,773, which when certain deductions are made, leaves a net total cost of £15,696. No allowance, however, is made for the Government grant. This scheme has been approved by the Nottinghamshire County Council.

HAPPY MARRIAGE.

Sir Walter Langdon-Brown, who is Emeritus Professor of Physics, Cambridge University, and consultant to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, speaking at a Conference at Nottingham, organised by the National Birth Control Association said that nothing promotes physical, mental moral and spiritual well-being so much as a happy marriage.

"If I were asked to point to one thing which above all others might be taken to prove the existence of an overruling force which is beneficent in intent, I should unhesitatingly point to a successful partnership between man and woman."

"We do not advocate childless marriages," he said. "I doubt whether any man, and I am sure that no woman, is complete without parenthood."

That it brings pains and penalties is obvious, but it is also the source of the highest spiritual development of which we are capable."

Chance for Every Child.

It was precisely those with the deepest sense of responsibility who were anxious to ensure that by limitation of numbers every child should have the best possible chance.

Last year in England and Wales there were 600,000 live births, and (although figures were naturally difficult to obtain) it had been estimated that there were at least 90,000 illegal abortions.

The logical conclusion seemed to be that proper medical advice on birth control should be available rather than that 90,000 women should be driven each year to adopt such a terribly dangerous practice.

LEGACIES TO NURSES.

Miss Alice Squire of Tavistock Street, W., left £1,500 to "her dear friend and nurse, Ethel Sharrott."

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