

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD REPORT.

The report of the Central Midwives Board for the year ended March 31st, 1939, which is published, shows that 16,761 women were practising as midwives in England and Wales in 1938, compared with 17,494 in 1937. On March 31st, 1939, the Midwives Roll contained the names of 62,905 women, a net decrease of 4,184 on the total at the end of March, 1938.

During the year covered by the report, the new training and examination rules of the Board came into operation—in the case of State Registered Nurses as from September 2nd, 1938, and in the case of others as from May 2nd, 1938. On March 31st the number of institutions approved for the training of pupil-midwives was 89 in respect of the first period of training, and 63 in respect of the second period.

The number of candidates entering for examination during the year was the largest on record—4,806 as against 4,420 in the previous year, and 2,683 in the year ended March 31st, 1927.

A report of the examinations held during the year is included, together with notes of various decisions by the Board on midwives' training, etiquette and practice. Reference is also made to the post-certificate courses of training for midwives which were made obligatory as from January 1st, 1939. The report also refers to preparatory arrangements made by the Board for an efficient midwifery service during a national emergency.

The publication is entitled, "Report on the Work of the Central Midwives Board for the year ended March 31st, 1939," and can be obtained (price 4d. net) direct from H.M. Stationery Office, or through any bookseller.

FIRST EXAMINATION.

November 22nd, 1939.

Candidates are advised to answer all the questions.

1. Describe the relations of the cervix uteri.
What are the signs and symptoms of cancer of the cervix uteri?
2. What are the causes of, and the treatment you would carry out for, retention of urine in (a) pregnancy, (b) labour, and (c) the puerperium?
3. What information may be gained by a vaginal examination during the second stage of labour?
4. What precautions can a midwife take during labour and the puerperium to prevent the occurrence of puerperal sepsis?
5. A breast-fed baby two weeks old is not gaining weight. What investigations would you make?
Describe in detail the treatment of any one of the causes responsible for this condition.
6. A multipara comes to book you for attendance at her confinement. Describe in detail the inquiries you would make and the directions you would give to her.

EXAMINATION UNDER OLD RULES.

November 22nd, 1939.

Candidates are advised to answer all the questions.

1. Describe the afterbirth at term.
What abnormalities of the placenta do you know?
How may they affect labour and the puerperium?
2. Describe in detail the nursing of a mother during the first week of the puerperium.

3. A midwife who is conducting a breech labour has difficulty in delivering the after-coming head. What may be the causes of such a difficulty and how should they be diagnosed and dealt with?
4. Describe in detail your examination of a primigravida at the 38th week of pregnancy.
5. Describe the care and management of a premature baby, weighing four pounds at birth, during the first four weeks of its existence.
6. Why is it desirable that a midwife should advise her patient to be examined by a doctor six weeks after her confinement?

A LOSS TO INTERNATIONAL AMENITIES.

Naturally there has been some disappointment amongst those nurses who had hoped for a Florence Nightingale Scholarship in the near future. We have received no official details of the discontinuation of this valuable international work, so quote the following paragraph from the *Bulletin* of the League of Red Cross Societies:—

"An Emergency Meeting of the Committee of Management was called immediately on the outbreak of war to endorse action already taken and to decide on the conduct of the business of the Foundation during wartime.

"The following action has been taken:

"The International Nursing Courses, 1939-40, have been cancelled.

"Those students already in England have been assisted to return home, and those remaining in the country have accepted temporary positions on the staffs of hospitals out of London and will return to their own countries as soon as possible.

"The house at 15, Manchester Square, has been closed and the furniture packed and warehoused.

"A skeleton Committee consisting of Mrs. Carter, Chairman (White Cottage, Radnage, near High Wycombe, Bucks), the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, Treasurer (Grand Hotel, Eastbourne), and Miss Olive Baggallay, Secretary (11, Ridgway Place, London, S.W.19), has been formed to act for the Committee of Management during the war or until such time as the Foundation can reopen. The Committee is confident that the affairs of the Foundation have been so arranged that it can be brought into active work again when times permit with the least possible loss of efficiency.

"In the words of the Chairman, 'it is with the greatest regret that we have to make this final report of the cessation of work that is not only of the greatest importance to nursing as a whole but is also a contribution to world understanding and international friendship.'"

"CIRCULATING GENIALLY AROUND."

Every line Miss Lavinia Dock, R.N., sends us from U.S.A. we value.

In a very sympathetic letter on the death of Dr. Bedford Fenwick she writes: "It was a painful and distressing line in last journal that gave the mournful news of your loss. . . . Was there ever a more chivalrous, generous, kind and true English gentleman? Gentle, but strong and staunch."

In the good old days of early international nursing organisation, Lavinia Dock "circulated genially around" in Europe, and when in London it was indeed an honour to receive her *en famille* at 20, Upper Wimpole Street.