

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

MIDWIFE-TEACHERS CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

JULY 29TH, 1940.

MIDWIFERY—THEORY.

1. Describe the anatomy of the bladder. What pathological conditions of the bladder may be met with during (a) pregnancy, (b) labour, (c) the puerperium?
2. Describe the anatomy of the umbilical cord. How may it separate from the child? What complications may arise in the process of separation, and how are they best prevented?
3. Explain how a woman can become infected during labour and the part taken by the blood in resisting infection.
4. Describe how the placenta is expelled in the third stage of labour. How may a midwife help in its expulsion? What dangers may arise from incorrect methods of aiding its expulsion?
5. An infant of 4 days develops pyrexia. Give an account of the probable causes and appropriate treatment.
6. What nervous disorders are associated with child-bearing? Give a short account of each.

JULY 30TH, 1940.

MIDWIFERY—TEACHING.

Every candidate must attempt Question 1, and is advised to allow 1½ hours for this question.

Only three of the other four questions are to be answered. Candidates are advised to illustrate their answers by diagrams wherever possible.

1. Write a lecture, which could be delivered to pupil-midwives, on the formation of the birth canal. Mention the structures composing it and explain what injuries may occur to it during labour.
2. Give an account of the teaching equipment you would choose for a first period training school, stating the reasons for your choice.
3. How would you teach a class of pupil-midwives the essential points which render an occipito-anterior position of the vertex more favourable than an occipito-posterior position?
4. You are called for the first time to a patient who is already in labour. Explain to a class of pupil-midwives how, in such circumstances, you would recognise that it was necessary to seek the help of a doctor.
5. Describe as to a class of pupil-midwives the management of twin delivery, discussing the special risks that may occur to the mother and twins.

JULY 31ST, 1940.

HYGIENE AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

1. What are the main duties of a Supervisor of Midwives in regard to the midwives under her supervision?
2. What methods are generally adopted for the disinfection of the following articles:—(a) clothing, (b) sheets, (c) rubber gloves, (d) needles and knives, (e) rooms?
3. Describe the condition known as pemphigus neonatorum. What would you do to prevent the spread of this disorder to other patients?
4. In which years were the principal and amending Midwives Acts passed? State the main features of each of these Acts.
5. Outline a talk to be given by you to pupil-midwives on "environmental hygiene."
6. Enumerate the various voluntary social agencies of which a midwife should possess some knowledge. Give a short account of the work of each agency you name.

FIRST EXAMINATION QUESTIONS.

AUGUST 14th, 1940.

1. Describe the structure and relations of the ovary. What part does it play in the reproductive life of a woman?
2. Define (i) normal labour; (ii) antepartum hæmorrhage; (iii) full dilatation of the cervix; (iv) the vertex of the foetal skull.
3. What is the purpose of antenatal care? What are the symptoms and signs of pregnancy?
4. You are called to a case of labour, the second stage is just beginning, and you believe it to be an occipito-posterior position. How would you verify this and how would you manage such a case?
5. What injuries may occur in the nervous system of a new-born infant? What would be your treatment in each case?
6. What are the signs of the normal separation of the placenta? What is post-partum hæmorrhage? Classify the different kinds of post-partum hæmorrhage.

We have received the most interesting Report of the Board ending March 31st, 1940, just too late for comment. We shall hope to review it in October issue.

ADMINISTRATION OF ANALGESICS.

Recently Dr. Summerskill asked the Minister of Health in the House of Commons how many authorities administering the domiciliary midwifery service were training their midwives in the use of Minitt's apparatus for the relief of pain at childbirth; and how many were still not exercising this power.

Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, in the course of a written answer, said: The information available in my Department shows that 44 out of 188 local supervising authorities in England and Wales had, as at December 31, 1939, made arrangements for training midwives in their areas in the administration of analgesics at childbirth. As the hon. member is aware, I have no power to give directions to local supervising authorities in this matter, but I hope that any authorities which have not made such arrangements will consider the desirability of doing so as opportunity offers.

We are glad to learn that four midwives from four county hospitals attended a course of instruction in the administration of analgesics during labour which was held at the Birmingham Maternity Hospital.

All the four midwives passed the examination at the conclusion of the course and have been awarded the necessary certificates to enable them to undertake the administration of analgesics by the Minitt gas-air apparatus which has already been provided at the hospitals.

Women have always suspected that if the male sex had been constituted for child-bearing, some such apparatus would long ago have been in general use.

Sunday, September 8th.

And, all day, I sent prayer like incense up
To God the strong, God the beneficent,
God ever mindful in all strife and strait,
Who, for our own good, makes the need extreme,
Till at the last He puts forth might and saves.

— BROWNING.

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