

The Midwife.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

EMERGENCY MATERNITY HOMES. SALARIES OF MIDWIVES, ETC.

1. The Minister of Health has had under consideration the salaries payable to midwives temporarily employed at emergency maternity homes provided in reception areas for the confinement of expectant mothers evacuated to those areas.

2. In some cases midwives have been lent by Authorities of evacuation areas for service in emergency maternity homes, and those Authorities continue to pay the salaries of the midwives temporarily transferred. The amount of such salaries is a matter for the lending Authority, and the Minister would not wish to interfere with their discretion in the matter. (Similarly he would not wish to alter any arrangements which may exist for the payment of salaries to pupil midwives.) In most cases, however, midwives employed at emergency maternity homes are either members of the staff of another Authority or of a voluntary hospital seconded for service at the emergency maternity home and paid by the Authority in the reception area which administers the home, or independent midwives who have volunteered for such service and have been engaged by that Authority. Hitherto the Minister has advised the payment to seconded midwives of the salaries which they received at the time of transfer, and to independent midwives of the salary normally payable by the Council to midwives employed in the institutions provided by them for ordinary residents. For the guidance of Authorities who have no salary scales already existing for the purpose, he has advised through his Regional Officers the payment of salaries to independent midwives at the rate of £90 for State Registered Nurses and £70—£75 according to experience for other midwives (increased in each case by 3s. 6d. a week from October 1st, 1940), together with board, lodging and laundry.

3. In the Minister's view, however, the salaries at present payable require revision in the light of the recent increase in the salaries payable to members of the Civil Nursing Reserve, and he requests that, as from the first pay week in February, 1941, salaries may be paid as an evacuation charge to independent midwives employed at emergency maternity homes at the rates indicated below.

For Midwifery Sisters (S.R.N.)—(<i>i.e.</i> , midwives of senior rank holding responsible positions— <i>e.g.</i> , Labour Ward Sister, Night Sister, Sister in charge of ward) ...	£135 a year.
For Staff Midwives (S.R.N.) ...	£115 "
For other Staff Midwives (not S.R.N.) ...	£100 "

Matrons should receive a salary proportionate to those indicated and commensurate with their responsibilities, having regard to the merits of the individual case. The salaries proposed should be submitted to the Senior Regional Officer for approval.

4. It is intended that in each case board, lodging and laundry should be provided in addition to the salaries set out above; but that any superannuation contribution payable by the employer should be deducted from those salaries, and that uniform should be provided by the midwife or, where provided by the Council, that a suitable deduction should be made. No war bonus is payable in addition to the salaries indicated.

5. With regard to midwives seconded for services at emergency maternity homes by Local Authorities or

voluntary hospitals and paid by the authority in the reception area administering the home, it appears to the Minister desirable that as far as possible the salaries received by them should, during the period of their temporary employment at the homes, correspond with the salaries payable to independent midwives in the same position. It is requested that the principles laid down in paragraphs 3 and 4 above may be applied to seconded midwives, and salaries paid to them accordingly, where the midwife concerned was at the date of her transfer in receipt of a salary lower than the appropriate salary according to the scale in paragraph 3. It is appreciated that in some instances (*e.g.*, domiciliary midwives) the seconded midwife would at the time of transfer be in receipt of a higher salary, and this should continue to be payable. A deduction of 24s. 6d. a week should normally be made from the salary of seconded domiciliary midwives for whom board, lodging and laundry are provided.

6. The allowances for transferred and independent midwives laid down in Circular 2048 of June 17, 1940, and the accompanying Rules will, of course, continue to be payable to midwives employed at emergency maternity homes and receiving the salaries indicated above.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

FIRST EXAMINATION.

14TH MAY, 1941.

Candidates are advised to answer all the questions.

1. Describe the vagina and its relations. Enumerate the injuries it may receive during labour.

2. What are the chief causes of vomiting during pregnancy and how should they be treated?

3. In what circumstances may the infant be the cause of delay in labour?

4. What disturbances of micturition may be met with in the mother after her baby is born?

5. Describe in detail the treatment of the stump of the umbilical cord.

What complications to the stump and the umbilicus may occur during the first four weeks after birth?

6. What advice can a midwife give to the mother as to the assistance obtainable for a new-born child from public authorities?

TEN-OUNCE BABY REACHES THIRD BIRTHDAY.

The South Shields child, Marian Chapman, who at birth weighed only ten ounces, celebrated her third birthday recently.

She is now a fine, healthy, intelligent child, and when last weighed six months ago she turned the scales at 22 lb. Twelve months ago she weighed 19 lb. 3 oz. She is believed to be the only ten-ounce baby born in this country that has survived.

For many weeks she was fed every hour with supplies of brandy and milk through a fountain-pen filler, and slept in an electrically-heated cot. She was so tiny that she could have been placed in a half-pint tumbler, and for a long time she was dressed in doll's clothing.

The father is a dock worker living in Tay Street. There are two other children.

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