

The Midwife.

MIDWIFERY TRAINING.

The Ministry of Health has issued a Memorandum to midwifery training Institutions, setting out the revised conditions for the payment of grant for the training of midwives, together with an Application Form to become a recognised Training Institution for purposes of grant under the conditions of Memo. 240 M.C.W.

These conditions follow generally those proposed in earlier years.

MEMORANDUM AS TO THE CONDITIONS GOVERNING GRANTS BY THE MINISTER OF HEALTH IN AID OF MIDWIFERY TRAINING.

I.—INTRODUCTION.

1. In a Memorandum issued in April, 1938 (Memo. 211 M.C.W.), the conditions were set out under which grants would be payable for the training of midwives in view of the revised rules of the Central Midwives Board. These conditions follow generally those imposed in earlier years.

2. The revised rules of the Board, involving the division of the training into two parts covering an extended period, are now well established and it is possible to form an opinion as to the effect the alterations are having and will be likely to have on the flow of candidates.

3. It is clear that the great majority of nurses who wish to study midwifery without intending to practise are taking the first period of the training only. The result of this is that whilst the number of pupil midwives taking the first period of training is satisfactory, the number taking the second period is not sufficient for the maintenance of an adequate supply of practising midwives which is, and must remain, the object of the grant from the Ministry.

4. In view of the fact that pupils taking the second period of training will normally be those who intend to practise, all candidates entering for the second period will be eligible for grant in respect of the first period and all candidates completing the second period will be eligible for grant without being asked to sign a specific undertaking to practise for a given period.

5. As it is necessary to secure that the grant shall aid the pupil midwife, the Minister will not recognise a training school for the purposes of these conditions unless he is satisfied that the grant will be applied for the benefit of the pupil, either by way of reduction of fees or by salary paid to the pupil midwife or otherwise. The Minister considers that as a result of these changes in the conditions of grant the financial arrangements made by training schools with pupil midwives should, in most cases, become more attractive to those pupils who take both parts of the training.

6. Grants to intending Health Visitors will be payable in respect of the first period of training as in the past.

7. The grant in respect of the attendance of practising midwives at courses of instruction will also be payable as in the past.

II.—CONDITIONS UPON WHICH GRANTS WILL BE MADE.

General.

1. Grants will be made only to an institution which is approved by the Central Midwives Board and which has been recognised by the Minister of Health for the purposes of these conditions (hereinafter called a "recognised institution").

2. The financial arrangements which a recognised institution makes with pupil midwives in respect of whom grant is payable must be approved by the Minister.

3. The recognised institution must keep such records and furnish such returns as may from time to time be required by the Minister.

Courses for intending Midwives.

4.—(a) Grants will be payable in respect of courses for intending midwives at recognised institutions for the first and second periods of training, subject to the terms of paragraph 7 below.

(b) Courses in District Nursing and other subjects may be included in the curriculum of the institution, but such courses will not be approved for the payment of grant.

Courses for intending Health Visitors.

5. Grants will be payable for intending Health Visitors in respect of midwifery courses at a recognised institution for the first period of training.

Courses for practising Midwives.

6. Grants will be payable in respect of courses approved by the Minister for practising midwives at recognised institutions. These courses must be either—

(a) whole-time courses intended for practising midwives desiring to qualify for senior positions, e.g., teachers of midwifery, and lasting for a period of not less than four months and not more than six months; or

(b) whole-time resident courses lasting not less than four consecutive weeks.

Grants.

7. The grants will be payable to recognised institutions on the following basis:—

(a) For each intending midwife who completes a first period of instruction of six months' duration and enters upon the second period of training—£20.

(b) For each intending midwife who completes a first period of instruction of 18 months' duration and enters upon a second period of training—£52 10s.

(c) For each intending midwife who completes a second period of instruction of six months' duration and enters for the examination at the end of this period—£20.

(d) For each intending Health Visitor who completes a first period of training of six months' duration and enters for the first examination—£20.

(e) For each intending Health Visitor who completes a first period of training of 18 months' duration and enters for the first examination—£52 10s.

(f) For each practising midwife who completes a course under paragraph 6 (a) of these conditions—not exceeding £20.

(g) For each practising midwife who completes a course under paragraph 6 (b) of these conditions—£1 a week.

8. Each grant will be payable (a) in respect of the first period after the pupil midwife to whom it relates has completed her course of training and entered upon the second period of training or declared in writing her intention of becoming a Health Visitor, or (b) in respect of the second period, after the pupil midwife has entered for the examination of the Central Midwives Board.

9. The grants are usually paid during the financial year after that in which the training was taken but an instalment of such an amount as the Minister thinks fit may be paid at the commencement of or during the course of training.

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