

The Midwife.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

FIRST EXAMINATION, MAY, 1942.

The following is the result of the First Examination held in May, 1942.

<i>Entered</i>	First Entries ...	672
	Re-entries ...	127
	Total ...	799
<i>Passed</i>	First Entries ...	528
	Re-entries ...	90
	Total ...	618
<i>Percentage of Failures</i> ...	First Entries	21.4
	Re-entries ...	29.1
	All Candidates	22.7
	L. FARRER BROWN, <i>Secretary.</i>	

It is good to know that a total of 618 midwives have been added to the profession. Their work is of such great value to the community that we hope the majority will be ready to practise midwifery in these strenuous days. Their skill may mean safety and good health to hundreds of women and babes.

Arrangements are being made for the examinations for pupil midwives to be held in August and September, 1942, as follows:—

(1) *First Examination.*

Written: August 12th.

Oral and Practical:

August 19th	Birmingham, Leeds.
August 20th	Croydon.
August 21st	London, Bristol, Liverpool, Sheffield.
August 22nd	Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The examination will be held at other centres, if necessary.

(2) *Second Examination.*

September 9th ... Birmingham, Leeds.

September 11th ... London, Bristol.

September 12th ... Manchester.

Arrangements are subject to alteration at short notice.

L. FARRER BROWN,
Secretary.

MIDWIFE-TEACHERS' CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION.

The Examinations for the Midwife-Teachers' Certificate. Midwifery Theory, Midwifery-Teaching, and Public Health and Social Service, were held at the end of June.

It is to be hoped that the pass list will be a high one. Midwives throughout the country are at a premium.

SECOND EXAMINATION.

As we go to press we have to acknowledge the reception of the List of Successful Candidates in the Second Examination, June 1942, too late we regret for comment.

DISTRICT NURSES "SILENT SERVICE."

The Minister of Health, Mr. Ernest Brown, addressing the Hampstead District Nursing Association recently

said, "The District Nurses are a Silent Service in the homes of the people. It is the nearest thing to medical missionary work in this country. No one knows the working-class homes more intimately than the District Nurse; and no one has had more poignant experience of their quiet heroism in the perils and trials of war."

"Before the war the District Nurses helped to raise the general standard of health and hygiene, and played a big part in maternity nursing and in the lowering of the infant mortality rate. During the war they are nursing the sick, both old and young, in their own homes and in war work billets. And after the war they will be needed more than ever. We are proud of the reduction in the maternal mortality rate, which in 1940 was the lowest ever recorded; but we must reduce it still further, and we must make fresh efforts to improve upon the infant mortality rate of 50 per 1,000 live births which we reached in 1939. This figure has shown an increase in the war years, and all our efforts will be needed to make further progress after the war. Particularly we are anxious to attack the high death rate in the first few weeks of life."

ELSIE INGLIS MEMORIAL MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

At the annual meeting of the Elsie Inglis Memorial Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh, it was reported that the number of maternity cases dealt with in the hospital was 1,160, and the district staff dealt with 492 cases, out of which total only one mother was lost—a particularly fine record in war time, with all the psychological and other complications involved.

The Chairman of Executive, Mrs. J. Johnstone, who presided, reported a deficit in the year's working of £3,645, and said it was nothing new to face a deficit, but, unfortunately, they had to draw on their reserve funds. She appealed on behalf of the committee for an additional income of £5,000 to £6,000, which was the sum required.

MOTHERHOOD SAFER IN ABERDEEN.

The claim that Aberdeen's maternal mortality of last year, which was the lowest among Scottish cities, was due in large measure to the work of the Aberdeen Maternity Hospital, was made by Mrs. J. A. Ross, retiring chairman of the directors, when she moved the adoption of the report and accounts at the hospital's annual meeting. She pointed out that the maternal mortality figure for Aberdeen in 1941 was 2.3 per thousand births and continued: "That, evidently, is largely due to the fact that the maternity hospital looked after 1,400 cases—almost 50 per cent. of the cases in the city—with a mortality rate of only 0.71 per thousand.

While stressing the value of the improvements made during the past year, Mrs. Ross spoke of other things which the directors were only too eager to tackle if they had the money. Their aim, she said, was to give every mother admitted a fourteen days' stay in the hospital, but even with eight additional beds, they were unable to do this in more than a few cases. Not only the poor seek the services of the hospital," said Mrs. Ross, "but many desire to go who would be willing to pay and are able to pay well. I hope that in the not very distant future money will be forthcoming to complete the unfinished wing, so that we can have pay beds, for which there is a crying need."

Mrs. Ross specially welcomed the opening of the old Maternity Hospital as an ante-natal clinic.

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