

The Midwife.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

FIRST EXAMINATION.

The First Examination was held on November 15th, 1944.

QUESTIONS.

1. Describe the anatomy of the breast. What conditions do you consider give the best opportunity for successful breast-feeding?

2. A primigravida 39 weeks pregnant is found to have the head above the pelvic brim. What are the causes of this condition and how should a midwife deal with such a case?

3. How would you recognise an occipito-posterior presentation (a) during pregnancy; (b) during labour? Describe how you would conduct the labour of such a case.

4. Describe the urinary complications that may occur during the puerperium. How may these be prevented? What is the appropriate treatment?

5. A breast-fed baby fails to gain weight during the second week after birth. What steps would you take to ascertain the cause and what treatment would you adopt?

6. What drugs are most commonly used by a midwife (a) to stimulate uterine contractions; (b) to relieve pain during labour and the puerperium? State the rules of the Central Midwives Board which regulate the use of drugs by midwives.

Never was it more necessary that Registered Nurses should also be members of the Midwifery Profession.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Mr. Willink, Minister of Health, as reported in *The Times*, told the delegates at the National Conference on Maternity and Child Welfare, which met recently in London, that local authorities had been asked to arrange for families which outgrow the temporary bungalows to be transferred to permanent houses of good standard and modern design. Many of these houses will be going up simultaneously with the temporary bungalows.

It has been suggested, he added, that a policy of building two-bedroomed bungalows was an attack on the birth-rate. He thought this criticism was without foundation. The sole reason why the Government had decided upon a programme of temporary housing was that it was calculated that the number of new homes which could be built in the two vital and most difficult years after the defeat of Germany would be doubled.

Public opinion now appreciated more than ever before the importance of wise measures directed towards the improvement of child welfare. "We cannot be complacent about an infant mortality rate around 50 per 1,000 live births. Still less can we be satisfied with a neo-natal rate of 25 per 1,000, even though it is the lowest ever recorded." They were already making practical plans for a special attack on this problem.

THE USE OF THE HYPNOIDAL STATE AS AN AMNESIC, ANALGESIC AND ANESTHETIC AGENT IN OBSTETRICS.

The relief of pain in childbirth has been one of the long sought goals of the medical profession. It is believed the only method that has complete safety for mother and baby, without altering the normal mechanism of labour, is hypnosis. One doctor has successfully managed the entire course of 11 out of 12 confinements with this method. There was only one failure in this small series of cases.

Ten of the patients were primiparas and one was a multipara, the latter having been delivered twice under hypnosis. Prophylactic forceps, episiotomy and perineorrhaphy were performed in all of the cases.

WORDS FOR ALL TIME.

The co-relation between political necessity and religious reality:—

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. . . . Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths, which are the instruments of investigation in the courts of justice. And let us with caution indulge the supposition, that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education . . . reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."—*Washington's Farewell Address*, 1796.

We have not exercised our courage in undertaking wars to increase our wealth, but only to continue in the observance of our traditions: for though we bear other losses with patience, yet when any persons would compel us to violate our traditions, we then choose to go to war, even against tremendous odds, and bear the greatest calamities to the last with full fortitude.—*JOSEPHUS*.

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