

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

EXAMINATION QUESTIONS.

The first examination was held on the 15th May, 1946. Candidates were advised to attempt to answer all the questions.

QUESTIONS.

1. Describe the structure of the uterus, the changes which take place in it during pregnancy, and the way in which the uterus prevents hæmorrhage after the birth of the baby.
2. How can antenatal care benefit the unborn child?
3. What are the causes of prolonged labour? What nursing points require to be observed and what nursing treatment would you give in such a case?
4. Discuss the causes of a rise of temperature in the first 14 days of the puerperium. Give the rules of the Central Midwives Board in connection with this abnormality.
5. What observations do you make during the first 14 days of an infant's life to ascertain its progress?
6. What is an antiseptic? Describe any antiseptics you have used in obstetrics, mentioning indications for their use, and the strength in which they are used.

A PROFESSIONAL ELECTORATE FOR MIDWIVES.

We claimed in our last issue that it was time the profession of midwifery should be directly represented on the Central Midwives Board, since when the following correspondence has taken place with the General Secretary, College of Midwives:

THE COLLEGE OF MIDWIVES

24th May, 1946.

DEAR MADAM,—Our attention has been drawn to a paragraph appearing in your May issue on page 60, under the title "The Midwife" headed "Professional Representation." We would like to draw your attention to the fact that Midwives are directly represented and have been since the Central Midwives Board was first set up under the Midwives Act, 1902.

The College of Midwives, under its original title The Midwives Institute, was in the first instance requested to appoint one medical practitioner. This representation was later increased to include two midwives. The College's present representatives are Mr. Arnold Walker, M.A. M.B., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G.; Miss K. V. Coni, O.B.E., S.R.N., S.C.M., Matron of the Municipal Maternity Hospital, Hull; and Miss C. Knott, S.R.N., S.C.M., Matron of the Salvation Army Mothers Hospital.

We hope you will publish these facts in your next issue so that your readers may be assured that the policy which you rightly advocate is, in fact, in operation.

Yours truly,

F. R. MITCHELL,

General Secretary.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,
THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING,
19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

To Mrs. F. R. MITCHELL, O.B.E.,
General Secretary, The College of Midwives,
57, Lower Belgrave Street, S.W.1. 28th May, 1946.

DEAR MADAM,—I beg to acknowledge your letter dated 24th May, and to note its assurance that the Midwives are directly represented on the Central Midwives Board.

Will you be good enough to let me know, as soon as you possibly can how the whole body of Midwives is directly represented on the Central Midwives Board?

Are the representatives you mention elected or nominated by the College of Midwives, or the whole body of Midwives, as Registered Nurses are upon the General Nursing Council?

My claim is, that the Profession of Midwives, composed as it is, should have their own electorate as Doctors and Registered Nurses have, and elect their own representatives.

I cannot gather either from your letter or the Constitution of the Central Midwives Board that this practice is in force.

I am, Yours sincerely

ETHEL G. FENWICK,
Hon. Editor.

In a second communication we invited Mrs. Mitchell to reply to our question, but so far she has not done so. On inquiry, the Central Midwives' Board states (a fact of which we are well aware) that the profession of midwives has no organisation for the election of representatives on to the Central Midwives' Board, which is the governing body of their profession. These responsible professional women have a right to this privilege, and for the good of all concerned the sooner they claim it the better.

IN MEMORIAM.

A year ago a great Bishop, The Rev. H. P. Almon Abbott, D.D., Bishop of Lexington, Kentucky, died. The *Quarterly Bulletin*, places on record some of his forceful words.

"God gave us grace to love Him as we have never loved Him before. To expose our Better Nature to the beneficent rays of the Sun of Righteousness. If we do that, then indifference will become enthusiasm and, spiritually not ourselves, we shall set our little world on fire."

Nothing that Bishop Abbott wrote or said in his eloquent addresses impressed us more deeply than a letter in *The Diocessan*, from which we have taken this quotation. He was writing of lukewarmness as a terrible danger, and he said that a lukewarm person has never accomplished anything worth while, and he never will. Then in burning letters he wrote, "God give us some fire, some enthusiasm, some forthright eagerness, some rush, some 'Woe is Me,' some abandon in our efforts to transform our surroundings into a similitude of the Kingdom of our God and of His Son Jesus Christ."

A WORD FOR THE MONTH.

EMILY BRONTË'S PRAYER.

Riches I hold in light esteem
And love I laugh to scorn;
And lust of fame was but a dream
That vanished with the morn;

And if I pray, the only prayer
That moved my lips for me
Is, "Leave the heart that now I bear,
And give me liberty."

Yes, as my swift days near their goal,
'Tis all that I implore;
In life and death a chainless soul,
With courage to endure.

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