

The Midwife.

HIGHER SALARIES FOR 15,000 MIDWIVES.

PART-TIME PAY ALSO INCREASED.

Higher salaries for midwives have been agreed by the Rushcliffe Midwives Salaries Committee, and full details will be published shortly. The new scales have been accepted by Mr. Aneurin Bevan, Minister of Health, who will recommend their adoption to all employing authorities.

The increased salaries which will have effect as from January 1st, last, cover midwifery teachers, departmental midwifery sisters, midwifery sisters, and staff midwives working in hospitals and maternity homes, non-resident domiciliary midwives, and pupil midwives. Higher payment is also recommended for midwives giving part-time service.

Details of the new rates (the previous rates in brackets) are:—

INSTITUTIONAL MIDWIVES (RESIDENT).

Post.	Annual Salary.	Total value Salary and Emoluments.
Midwifery teacher in hospitals approved for more than six pupils.	£270 rising (according to qualification) either by £15 to £330, or by £10 to £310.	£ 410—470 (350—400) 390—430 (350—380)
Departmental midwifery sister.		
(A) Training Institutions with fewer than six pupils.	From £210 to £230 rising by £10 to £330.	330—450 (300—390)
(B) Non-training Institutions.	From £190 to £210 rising by £10 to £310.	310—430 (260—350)
Midwifery Sister (State Certified Midwife and State Registered Nurse).	£180 rising by £10 to £240 (plus £20 after five years and a further £20 at the end of 10 years).	300—400 (250—320)
S.C.M. only.	£160 rising by £10 to £220, followed by two increments of £20 after five and 10 years respectively.	280—380 (230—300)
Staff Midwife (S.C.M. & S.R.N.)	£140 rising by £10 to £180 (plus £10 after a further five years service in the grade and another £10 at the end of 10 years).	240—300 (210—250)
S.C.M. only.	£120, rising by £10 to £170, followed by increments of £10 after a further five and 10 years respectively.	220—290 (190—240)

It is recommended that a Pupil Midwife who is already a State Registered Nurse should receive a salary of £85 (against £65) a year during training (in addition to emoluments worth £75). For a Pupil Midwife who is not a trained nurse, the salary should be £60 (£40) for the first

year, £65 (£45) for the second year and until she has passed her first examination, and £80 (£60) during the second period of training.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIVES (NON-RESIDENT).

Annual Salary.

District Midwife (S.C.M. & S.R.N.) £330 rising by £15 to £435. (£270 rising by £10 to £360).

District Midwife (S.C.M. only) £310 rising by £15 to £415 (then plus £10 to £425). (£250 rising by £10 to £350).

PAYMENT FOR PART-TIME SERVICE.

It is further recommended that midwives giving part-time service in hospitals and institutions shall have their previous midwifery service taken into account in establishing their part-time salaries, and they may also, at the discretion of the employing authority, receive an extra 10 per cent.

The new national scales and terms of service will apply to about 15,000 midwives.

In the case of midwives employed in institutional midwifery, the Ministry will make a grant to local authorities and voluntary hospitals of 50 per cent. of the additional expenditure incurred.

In the case of midwives employed in the domiciliary service under the Midwives Act of 1936, the additional expenditure will be covered by the statutory grant provisions in that Act.

SHORTAGE OF MIDWIVES.

The Minister of Health, during his presidential address to the National Conference on Maternity and Child Welfare, at Friends House, London, on June 28th, said:—

"This problem of the inadequacy of our manpower and womenpower is expressed most tragically in the absence of a sufficient number of midwives.

"Very many mothers are more and more anxious to have their children in maternity homes, and we have not got the staff. We have added to the number of beds to the extent of about 700, but it is no use me adding to the number of beds and increasing the accommodation unless we can get the staff... We are trying to persuade Midwives who are doing other nursing work to come back to Midwifery. And I am trying to find out why it is that so many women who acquire midwifery qualifications do not practice midwifery."

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