

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

FIRST EXAMINATION TOOK PLACE ON MAY 14TH, 1947.

1. What questions concerning her previous pregnancies would you ask a multigravida at her first attendance at the antenatal clinic? How might the information obtained help in the management of the present pregnancy and labour?

2. Describe the mechanism of a first vertex presentation. In what way are these various movements of the foetal head of practical significance?

3. Describe the anatomy of the skeletal pelvis. What methods can be adopted during pregnancy to ascertain that the pelvis is adequate for the passage of the child?

4. Describe in detail how you would feed a healthy baby, weighing 8 lbs., during the first two weeks of life; breast milk being unobtainable.

5. Describe the causes of prolongation of the second stage of labour. In what way is your conduct of such a case governed by the rules of the Central Midwives' Board?

6. What precautions can a midwife take during labour and the puerperium to prevent the occurrence of puerperal sepsis?

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S STATISTICAL REVIEW (PART II) FOR 1942.

The Registrar-General's annual Statistical Reviews, the issue of which was suspended during the war, are now being brought up to date, and the "Civil" Tables of the Review for 1942 were published on May 6th. The review shows that during the third year of the war, births increased rapidly from the low figure to which they had fallen, in 1941; death rates decreased; and the still-birth rate fell to a record low level. Marriages, although more numerous than in pre-war years, were many fewer than in 1939 and 1940; both brides and bridegrooms being younger than before the war.

Births

There were 651,503 births in 1942, representing a birth-rate of 15.6 per 1,000 population and a sharp contrast to the rate of 13.9 in 1941 (the lowest figure ever recorded for England and Wales). Even so, however, of all the principal British and foreign countries, except Belgium (13.1), France (14.5), and Germany (14.9), England and Wales had the lowest birth rate in the year under review. Illegitimate births recorded for England and Wales during the year were 5.6 per cent. of all live births, compared with a pre-war average (1934-38) of 4.2 per cent. The number of still-births was 33 per 1,000 births, compared with a pre-war average (1934-38) of 40.

Marriages

A total of 369,744 marriages in 1942 was 100,805 fewer than the figure for 1940 which had been the peak, and 19,277 fewer than the figure for 1941, but it exceeded the number for 1938 by 7,976. In spite of evacuation, London retained its popularity for the celebration of weddings, its marriage rate of 27.8 per 1,000 population being 44 per cent. greater than the rate for England and Wales as a whole. Of the County Boroughs, four had marriage rates greater than, or equal to, that of London; West Ham (29.7), Plymouth (29.3), Great Yarmouth (28.0), and Portsmouth (27.8). The most popular age for marriage was 21 for both men and women, compared with 24 for men and 23 for women, in 1938. The average age of bachelor bridegrooms, in 1942,

was 26.87, and of spinster brides 24.59—the lowest figures recorded since the beginning of the century. During the year 18 women and 88 men over 80 years of age married.

Age of Mothers

The records show that one girl became a mother at 12 years of age; three at 13 years; and 39 at 14 years. There were 39 births to mothers aged 50 and over.

STUDYING BRITISH MIDWIFERY.

Mrs. Rigmor Ingmann, Superintendent of the Danish Midwifery School at Copenhagen, is visiting this country for three months under the auspices of the British Council to study the organisation of maternity work and the methods of teaching midwifery.

In conjunction with the College of Midwives, it has been arranged for her to stay at and study in maternity hospitals at Hampstead, Bristol and Oxford.

SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR NURSES.

The Nurses' Salaries Committee have now thought it desirable for administrative convenience to consolidate the whole of their current recommendations as to salaries and conditions of service. The Minister understands that in order to clarify their intentions, the Committee have where necessary reworded and expanded their earlier recommendations in the light of the requests for interpretation and guidance which they have received since the issue of their Reports.

The Committee have also made recommendations as to revised salary scales for the matrons and assistant matrons of hospitals and public assistance institutions of certain sizes, for the superintendent nurses and deputy superintendent nurses of public assistance institutions, and for sister tutors; for the payment of increased allowances to resident female nurses who are absent on paid sick leave and annual leave; and concerning the counting of previous service on transfer into or change of grade within the Domiciliary Nursing Service, or on taking up employment in a day or residential nursery or transfer between the two types of nursery.

The Minister has accepted these further recommendations of the Committee, which have been included in the consolidation, and commends them to employing authorities for adoption with effect from April 1st, 1947, as proposed by the Committee.

The additional expenditure incurred in adopting the Committee's recommendations will rank for the Exchequer grant which the Minister is prepared to give to employing authorities to assist them in giving effect to the Committee's proposals. As employing authorities are aware, it is a condition of payment of such grant that employing authorities adopt in their entirety the agreed findings of the Committee and (where appropriate) of the Midwives' Salaries Committee and the Mental Nurses' Committee.

Copies of the Notes are obtainable from His Majesty's Stationery Office at the following addresses: York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 13A, Castle Street, Edinburgh 2; 39-41, King Street, Manchester 2; 1, St. Andrews' Crescent, Cardiff; 80, Chichester Street, Belfast; or through any bookseller. Price 1s. 6d. net.

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