

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

FIRST EXAMINATION.

August 11th, 1948. From 2 to 5 p.m.

Candidates were advised to attempt to answer all the questions.

1. How would you diagnose an occipito-posterior position? How does the degree of flexion affect the course of labour?

2. What do you understand by accidental ante-partum hæmorrhage? Discuss its causes, diagnosis, and treatment.

3. Describe the anatomy of the uterus. What changes occur in the cervix during pregnancy and in the first stage of labour?

4. What do you understand by the term involution, and what systematic observations are made to check its progress? Enumerate the conditions which will retard the rate of involution.

5. Give your management of a normal healthy baby from delivery until after the first bath.

6. What do you understand by the term puerperal pyrexia? What are its causes, and what are the duties of the midwife in cases of puerperal pyrexia?

NEW LOW RECORDS IN MARCH QUARTER.

Fewer Babies Die.

Three new low records for infant mortality, the general death rate, and deaths from influenza are recorded for the first three months of this year by the Registrar-General* for England and Wales.

The provisional infant mortality rate—deaths of babies under one year—was 41 per 1,000 related live births, the lowest for any first quarter. It was 11 below the figure for the same period a year earlier, and 25 below the average for the March quarter of the 10 preceding years. It has already been announced that the provisional rate for the second quarter of this year is 31, which is the lowest rate for any quarter on record.

Births during the same period totalled 202,184, representing a birth rate for England and Wales of 18.9 per thousand. This compares with 193,586 births and a rate of 17.8 for the preceding quarter and 241,530 births and a rate of 22.8 for the corresponding quarter of 1947. The average birth rate for the first quarters of the five years, 1942-1946, was 16.7.

The number of illegitimate births, included in the total, was 11,055, or 5.5 per cent. of the total births registered, compared with 12,684, or 5.3 per cent. in the corresponding quarter of 1947.

STILLBIRTHS.

The 5,043 stillbirths registered represented 24.3 per 1,000 of the total live and stillbirths, which was 1.3 lower than for the same period a year ago. The stillbirth rate per 1,000 total population was 0.47.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered was 132,705, representing a death rate, based on the 1947 total population, of 12.4 per 1,000, a new low record for any March quarter;

it compared with 17.1 for the corresponding quarter of 1947 and an average death rate for the first quarters of the five years, 1942-1946, of 14.3.

Deaths from influenza (provisional total excluding non-civilians) numbered only 644. The lowest number previously recorded in a first quarter was 1,470 in 1945, and the ten-year average for first quarters of 1938-1947 was 3,800. A low record was reached also in the fourth quarter of 1947, with 380 deaths among civilians, the lowest number previously recorded for that quarter being 432 in 1946.

Deaths from acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis (provisional total excluding non-civilians) numbered 82, compared with 24, 40, 429 and 196 in the four preceding quarters, January to December.

SURVEY OF SICKNESS.

An analysis is given of the latest returns of the Social Survey of Sickness. These show that in November, out of 2,526 men interviewed, 1,618 reported some illness or injury and there were 931 consultations with doctors; out of 3,138 women interviewed, 2,339 reported illness or injury and there were 1,615 consultations with doctors.

During the three months, October, November, and December, illness or injury of some kind during a month was reported by 69.8 per cent. of all persons interviewed; there was an average loss of exactly one day a month for each person interviewed. Among housewives (36.2 per cent. of the total interviewed), illness or injury was reported by 76.3 per cent., compared with the general level of 69.8 per cent.

MORE NEW RECORDS IN JUNE QUARTER.

Fewer Babies Die : Fewer Stillbirths.

The Registrar-General* announces that new all-time records for infant mortality and stillbirths were set up for England and Wales during the June quarter of this year, while the death rate was the lowest ever recorded for the same quarter.

There were 6,336 deaths of children under one year of age, representing a provisional infant mortality rate of 31 per 1,000 related live births. This is the lowest ever recorded in any quarter, the previous lowest being 32 per 1,000 in the third quarter of last year. The corresponding figure for the June quarter of last year was 39.

Stillbirths registered during the quarter numbered 4,733, giving a rate of 22.7 per 1,000 total live and still births, which is also a low record for any quarter. The previous lowest was 22.9 recorded in September quarter last year.

The number of live births registered during the quarter was 203,711 compared with 202,184 in the previous quarter, and 235,174 in the same period last year. The corresponding rates were 19.0, 18.9 and 21.9 respectively.

There were 110,356 deaths registered, representing a record low death rate for any June quarter of 10.3 per 1,000 total population, compared with 11.0 for the second quarter in 1947, and the previous lowest rate for a second quarter of 10.4 in 1945.

*Registrar-General's Quarterly Return of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Quarter ended March 31st, 1948. H.M. Stationery Office, 1s. net (post free 1s. 1d.).

*The Registrar-General's Weekly Return of Births, Deaths and Infectious Diseases for the week ended July 17th, 1948. H.M. Stationery Office, York House, Kingsway, W.C.2 (price 6d. or post free 7d.).

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)