

THE MIDWIFE.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.
First Examination, May 12th 1948.

1.—What advice would you give to a pregnant woman about her diet? Give the reasons for your recommendations.

2.—How would you manage a normal breech labour in a multipara from the onset of the uterine contractions until the birth of the child?

3.—Describe briefly the structure of the breast. What steps would you take, (a) during pregnancy and (b) after delivery, to ensure successful breast feeding?

4.—What are the causes of retention of urine during labour and during the puerperium? How would you treat it?

5.—What do you understand by ophthalmia neonatorum? To what complications may it lead? What precautions would you take, (a) in pregnancy and (b) at the delivery, to avoid this condition?

6.—Define prolapse of the cord. What is a midwife expected to do if confronted with this problem?

PROVISIONAL DEATH RATES FOR 1947.

The Registrar-General* announces that the decline in the maternal mortality rate (i.e., the rate of deaths of mothers from childbirth, excluding abortion) in England and Wales continued during 1947, resulting in a new low figure of 1.01 per 1,000 total live and still births compared with the previous lowest rate of 1.24 in 1946.

The rate per 1,000 total live and still births for deaths from abortion was 0.17.

A male rate of 593 deaths per million civilian population from respiratory tuberculosis maintains the fall that has taken place since the high figure of 795 in 1941, and 611 in 1946. The rate for deaths of females from this cause increased from 344 in 1946 to 362 in 1947. The rates for other forms of tuberculosis were 87 for males and 72 for females.

Deaths from cancer among females continued to increase, the rate per million civilian population being 1,745 compared with 1,735 in 1946 and 1,577 in 1937. The rate for males from this cause was 1,976 compared with 1,987 in 1946.

NORTHERN IRELAND RETURNS FOR 1947.

The Northern Ireland Returns for 1947 in respect of infant mortality, maternal mortality and tuberculosis death rate are the lowest on record, according to an announcement on the subject by the Registrar-General.

The infant mortality figure is 53 deaths per thousand live births, as against 54 in 1946. The maternal mortality rate works out at 1.86 per thousand live births, as against 2.32 in 1946, and the tuberculosis death rate was 72 per hundred thousand of the population as compared with 83 in the preceding year. The tuberculosis death rate is less than one-fourth of that recorded at the commencement of the present century.

The announcement points out that a birth rate of 23.4 per thousand of the population was recorded, as against 22.6 in the preceding year. At the outbreak of war in 1939, the birth rate was only 19.5.

The marriage and death rates have not altered greatly in the past year.

* The Registrar-General's Weekly Return of Births, Deaths and Infectious Diseases for the week ended April 24th, 1948 (H.M. Stationery Office, York House, Kingsway, W.C.2. Price 6d., post free 7d.).

A LITTLE BOOK OF DEVOTION FOR NURSES.

Messrs. A. R. Mowbray and Co., Ltd., 28, Margaret Street, London, W.1, have recently published the above, by Doreen Pearce, price 2s. 6d.

It should be a source of inspiration to all nurses, especially to those who would seek the joy and comfort of quiet meditation. The book contains much information which is useful to all nurses who may, at some time during their careers, be called upon to prepare for ministrations in the spiritual care of the patient. It can be recommended to all who feel the need of such guidance.

M. R.

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In view of the coming constitutional changes, the young Church in India urgently needs all the help we can give in every branch of its activities, especially in medical and higher educational work.

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