

The Midwife.

Higher Salaries for Trained Nurses in Mental Hospitals, and for Midwives in Hospitals and Institutions.

SALARY scales have been agreed by the Nurses and Midwives Whitley Council for certain grades of mental nurses and for certain grades of midwives.

The grades concerned are :—

(A) Ward Sisters, Charge Nurses, Deputy Ward Sisters and Deputy Charge Nurses and Staff Nurses employed in mental hospitals.

(B) Midwives employed in maternity hospitals and homes and maternity units or wards of other hospitals.

The increases are consequential on the agreement reached some weeks ago for nurses employed in general hospitals. Another consequential review of the salaries of comparable grades in tuberculosis and fever hospitals in the National Health Service will follow. It has already been announced that all increases will operate from the same date (i.e., February 1st, 1949).

The new salaries will be paid fully in cash like those of nurses in general hospitals and will be the same for resident and non-resident nurses and midwives. Resident mental nurses and resident midwives will, accordingly make a payment for board and lodging, and Income Tax will in all cases be assessable on inclusive salary. The new rates are as follows :—

MENTAL NURSES.

<i>Women.</i>	<i>Gross Salary</i> (previous rates in brackets).
Ward Sister	£395 rising by 7 annual increments of £15, and 1 increment of £20-£520 (£180-£280 plus emolument valued at £120).
Deputy Ward Sister	£375, rising by 8 annual increments of £12 10s. to £475 (£170-£220 plus emoluments valued at £110).
Staff Nurse	£335, rising by 8 annual increments of £12 10s. to £435 (£160-£210 plus emoluments valued at £100).
<i>Men.</i>	
Charge Nurse	£405, rising by 7 annual increments of £15, and 1 increment of £10-£520 (120s.-152s. a week, non-resident, inclusive).
Deputy Charge Nurse	£385, rising by 8 annual increments of £12 10s.-£485 (112s.-138s. a week, non-resident, inclusive).
Staff Nurse	£345, rising by 8 annual increments of £12 10s.-£445 (104s.-125s. a week, non-resident, inclusive).

MIDWIVES IN HOSPITALS.

Staff Midwife	£335, rising by 8 annual increments of £12 10s. to £435 (S.C.M., S.R.N., £160-£210 plus emoluments valued at £100).
Midwifery Sister	£395, rising by 7 annual increments of £15 to £500 and one increment of £20 to £520 (S.C.M., S.R.N., £200-£280 plus emoluments valued at £120).

Nurses and midwives who are resident will now pay at the rate of £120 per annum (Ward Sisters, Charge Nurses and

Midwifery Sisters £130 per annum) for board and lodging and other services provided by the hospital.

Non-residents will pay £20 per annum for meals on duty and the use of laundering of uniform.

National Health Service.

The Prescription and Use of Lead Nipple Shields.

THE attention of the Minister of Health has been drawn to a number of cases which have recently come to light of lead encephalopathy in babies resulting from the use of lead nipple shields by the mothers.

The Minister, Mr. Aneurin Bevan, has, therefore, notified hospitals under the National Health Service of the danger of issuing lead nipple shields, and Local Executive Councils have been asked to warn doctors and chemists. The principal distributors who have been approached have agreed to stop the sale of these shields at once.

There may, however, be some still on sale, and the Ministry emphasises that nursing mothers should avoid any possible risk by not buying or using nipple shields which are made of lead. Where a nipple shield is needed the doctor will prescribe a suitable alternative.

Where a lead nipple shield has been in use and the baby appears quite well, mothers can be reassured that *if they stop using the lead nipple shield at once*, they need not fear any harmful after-effects.

Child Health Lectures in Czechoslovakia.

PROFESSOR J. C. SPENCE, Professor of Child Health in the University of Durham, left by air for Czechoslovakia on Monday, September 26th, to spend two weeks lecturing for the British Council.

The Czech Ministry of Health, the Czech Paediatric Society, the Czechoslovak-British Medical Society, and the Institute of Social Medicine, Charles University, co-operated in arranging the tour. Professor Spence lectured on the following subjects :—"Tuberculosis in childhood and its control"; "The child health services in Britain"; and "The place of university departments of child health in the Health Service."

He spent the first part of his visit in Prague, and toured Kosice, Bratislava, Brno and Ostrava, returning to Prague on October 6th, when his visit ended.

Streptomycin Safeguard.

New Regulations.

AS from October 1st, streptomycin can only be manufactured for sale in the United Kingdom under licence, and it must conform with prescribed conditions as to strength, quality and purity.

These requirements are laid down in the Therapeutic Substances Amendment Regulations, 1949, which have been made by the Minister of Health, the Secretary of State for Scotland, and the Minister of Health and Local Government for Northern Ireland. These Regulations were drawn up after consultation between the Ministers and the Advisory Committee set up under Section 4 of the Therapeutic Substances Act, 1925. Under them streptomycin is added to the Schedule to the Therapeutic Substances Act, 1925, as being a substance the purity or potency of which cannot adequately be tested by chemical means.

The new Regulations are designed to safeguard the public against the sale of inferior and possibly dangerous preparations.

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