

The Midwife.

Central Midwives Board.

First Examination.

August 9th, 1950.

Candidates are advised to attempt to answer all the questions.

1. Describe the bony pelvis. In your examination of a patient, what might make you suspect the presence of pelvic deformity?
2. Discuss the significance of albumin in the urine of the pregnant woman.
3. A woman who had, on a previous occasion, been normally delivered of a baby weighing 8½ lb., has now been two hours in the second stage of labour. What are the possible causes of this delay and how should they be treated?
4. What do you understand by involution of the pelvic organs? What may interfere with the process? What could you do to promote normal involution?
5. What are the main differences between a full time baby and a premature one? How do these factors make it difficult to rear a premature baby?
6. There are no signs of separation of the placenta after an hour in the third stage. Describe your management of the case.

Lowest-Ever Death Rate in 1948. Increases in Deaths from Cancer and Coronary Disease.

THE MEDICAL TABLES VOLUME of the Registrar General's Statistical Review for 1948* issued on August 3rd records that 468,645 civilians died in England and Wales during that year, a decrease of 46,946 from the previous year's figure. This gave a crude death rate of 11.0 per thousand civilian population, the lowest ever recorded in this country; the previous lowest rate was 11.4 in 1930, when the number of deaths was 455,427.

Of the 468,645 deaths, cancer accounted for 79,432 or 16.9 per cent., compared with 15.1 per cent. in the previous year and 13.9 per cent. in 1938.

CORONARY DISEASE, ANGINA PECTORIS.

Deaths due to diseases of the coronary arteries and angina pectoris again showed a substantial increase, numbering 36,640 compared with 33,168 in 1947, 28,580 in 1946 and 15,409 in 1938. To get a true comparison between these years it is necessary to discount the changes in the sex and age structure of the population: when this is done, it is shown that, taking the 1938 incidence as 1,000, the corresponding figures in 1948, 1947 and 1946 are 1,950, 1,851 and 1,605 for men, and 1,994, 1,765 and 1,576 for women respectively. Thus the mortality from this cause has practically doubled over a period of ten years.

CANCER.

Male mortality from this cause again increased in 1948 whilst female mortality showed a slight decrease from the two previous years. The decline in deaths from cancer of the mouth continued but, as noted in previous recent years, other affected sites showed increases. Cancer of the respiratory system showed increases for both sexes (9,465 for men and 2,158 for women compared with 8,603 and 2,019 respectively in 1947) representing just over half the total increase in cancer mortality.

* The Registrar General's Statistical Review of England and Wales, 1948, Tables Part I, Medical. H.M.S.O. Price 7/6 net (or post-free from P.O. Box 569, S.E.1, price 7/5).

DIPHTHERIA.

Deaths from diphtheria numbered 155 in 1948 compared with 242 in 1947 and 2,861 in 1938. This represents a fall of about 95 per cent. in mortality from this cause over the ten years. It is now known that the fall continued during 1949 when only 85 deaths from diphtheria were registered (provisional figures).

ROAD DEATHS.

There were 3,859 (2,809 male and 1,050 female) deaths due to road accidents in 1948, compared with 4,187 in 1947 and 7,314 in 1939.

Of the 3,859 persons killed, 2,041 (1,276 male and 765 female), or 53 per cent., were pedestrians; 722 (606 male and 116 female), or 19 per cent., were pedal cyclists and 311 (287 male and 24 female), or 8 per cent., were motor cyclists.

Of the pedestrians and pedal cyclists (a total of 2,763), 694 were children under ten years of age, a proportion of 25 per cent.

DEATHS OF INFANTS AND MOTHERS.

The number of children who died in 1948 before reaching their first birthday was 26,766. This represents an infant mortality rate of 34 per thousand related live births, compared with 41 in 1947 and 43 in 1946, and was the lowest recorded in this country up to that time. It is now known that the fall continued during 1949, the provisional rate for that year being 32 per thousand.

Greater London, and also the remainder of south-east England, had the low rate of 27, while in the counties of Durham and Northumberland together, the rate was 43. The county boroughs as a whole had a higher rate, at 39, than the urban districts or the rural districts (35 and 32 respectively). Of the London boroughs, Bermondsey recorded the lowest rate with 16, and Chelsea the highest with 39. Of the county boroughs, Exeter had the lowest rate, 18, while Rotherham had the highest at 69, followed by St. Helens with 60 and Sunderland with 54.

A total of 686 women died from maternal causes (excluding abortion), a decrease of 232 compared with 1947. The rate per thousand live and still births was 0.86 compared with 1.02 in 1947 and 1.24 in 1946; in 1938 the rate was 2.70.

Note.—Any enquiry on this Notice should first be addressed to the Press Officer, Ministry of Health, who, by arrangement between the two Departments, acts also as Press Officer for the General Register Office.

Estimate of Future Births.

334,000 babies expected in September and December Quarters.

THE QUARTERLY ESTIMATE of the numbers of live births to be expected in England and Wales as a whole during the six months July–December, 1950, is announced by the Registrar General.*

The final estimate for the September quarter is 174,000 and the provisional estimate for the December quarter is 160,000, giving an estimated total of 334,000 babies in the six months.

Last year there were 183,278 live births registered in the September quarter and 169,563 in the December quarter—a total of 352,841.

Note.—Any enquiry on this Notice should first be addressed to the Press Officer, Ministry of Health, who, by arrangement between the two Departments, acts also as Press Officer for the General Register Office.

* The Registrar General's Weekly Return, No. 30, H.M.S.O. Price 6d. net (or post free from P.O. Box 569, London, S.E.1. Price 7d.).

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)