

M E M O R A N D U M

FROM:

County Medical Officer of Health,
Guildhall Road,
Northampton.

TO:

Midwives.

15th June, 1961.

Rules of the Central Midwives Board

As from 1st June, certain rules of the Central Midwives Board have been amended by Statutory Instrument, 1961, No. 810.

The principle changes are to the rules regarding the training of pupil midwives (Section B) and provide authority for a three months' course in obstetric nursing for female student nurses and a consequent reduction of two months in the first period of midwifery training of state registered general nurses who have taken the course in obstetric nursing. A revised edition of Section B of the Board's rules is being printed and will be sent to you in due course.

A change has also been made in the rules prescribing the statutory uniform, to allow the working dress to be made of fabrics of synthetic and/or natural fibres having satisfactory antistatic and washing properties.

Midwives Code of Practice

In my memorandum of 28th September, 1960, I drew attention to Sub-Paragraph 4 of Notice 10 which relates to the issue, by midwives, of certificates of stillbirth. In a statement recently issued, the Central Midwives Board reiterate that the legal duty of giving a certificate rests in the first instance on any registered medical practitioner who was present at the birth, or who examined the body of a stillborn child, and on the midwife only if no registered medical practitioner was present or examined the body. As it seems that some doctors and midwives may not have appreciated the significance of the change in law, the following paragraph has been substituted for paragraph 4 of Notice 10(4) of the Notices:-

"When a registered medical practitioner is present at a stillbirth or examines the body, it is his statutory duty to give to the qualified informant (usually the father or mother) a certificate of stillbirth. Otherwise the midwife should give the certificate if she was present at the stillbirth or examined the body. Whenever possible the midwife should state on this certificate the cause of death and the estimated duration of the pregnancy to the best of her knowledge and belief. If a registered medical practitioner has been booked he should be informed."

C. M. S. f.