

State Examinations

The State Examination of Midwives was held on the 11th and 12th of June. The result, which is just to hand, is as follows:— There were 43 candidates, 39 of whom passed. One passed oral only, and 3 failed.

PASSED FIRST.

ST. HELENS HOSPITAL, AUCKLAND.—Almena I. R. White.

OBTAINED 75 PER CENT. AND OVER.

ST. HELENS HOSPITAL, CHRISTCHURCH.—Bertha Eliza Hight, Gwynneth S. Field, Winifred M. Bowron (R.N.).

ST. HELENS HOSPITAL, INVERCARGILL.—Grace Ballantyne, Ellen Duff, Nettie Neilson (R.N.)

TOWNLEY ST. HELENS, GISBORNE.—Gertrude Cato, Mrs. Julia Fahey, Clarice M. Emerson.

McHARDY MATERNITY HOME, NAPIER.—Blanche E. Wright (R.N.), Rhoda W. T. Walker (R.N.), Edith Harrison (R.N.).

SALVATION ARMY MATERNITY HOME, NAPIER.—Grace B. Stevens.

ST. HELENS HOSPITAL, AUCKLAND.—Lucy B. Goulstone (R.N.), Ellen F. McKay, Mrs. Nan Masicks, Eliz. J. Armour.

HOSPITAL, WHANGAREI.—Hilda B. Hogwood (R.N.), Dora Alice Roberts (R.N.).

ST. HELENS HOSPITAL, WELLINGTON.—Violet A. Kelly (R.N.), Hilda Wright, Louisa C. Tyrrell, Mary Rowe, Nell M. McClea (R.N.), Lottie M. Earp (R.N.), Ruth H. Leach.

ST. HELENS HOSPITAL, DUNEDIN.—Beatrice H. Kendall, Ruby Lodge, Eliz. Campbell.

BACHELOR MATERNITY HOSPITAL, DUNEDIN.—Anna Coppin (R.N.), Georgina Milne.

ALEXANDRA HOME, WELLINGTON.—Sarah G. McMillan, Agnes S. Davidson, Mabel Little (R.N.).

The following were also successful:—

ESSEX MATERNITY HOME, CHRISTCHURCH.—Annie Nelson.

ST. HELENS HOSPITAL, WELLINGTON.—Lilian M. Young.

ST. HELENS HOSPITAL, DUNEDIN.—Catherine McAlpine, Agnes J. Baird.

The following obtained a partial pass:—

ST. HELENS HOSPITAL, WELLINGTON.—Helen Flower (written).

The questions in the written paper were:—

1. How would you prepare:—
 - (a.) A saline injection?
 - (b.) Nutrient enemata?
2. Describe the signs and symptoms of phlegmasia alba dolens, and give the treatment.
3. Name and differentiate between the different kinds of haemorrhage met with in pregnancy.
4. What are the duties of a maternity nurse when called to a confinement?
5. How would you prepare artificial food for an infant from birth until the third month?
6. What is ophthalmia? Describe the different kinds, and give their treatment.

The comments of the examiner, Dr. Owen Jones, of Auckland, which are most valuable for future candidates, run:—

It was a pleasure to examine candidates' answers to the questions in the written paper

set at the recent state examination for midwives. One felt more convinced than ever of the high standard of training given at the various St. Helens Hospitals. [Editor's Note.—These remarks apply also to the candidates from other maternity training schools of which the examiner may not have been aware.] Nearly all the candidates did very well; their answers were methodically and neatly written, and showed a thorough grasp of the matter in hand. I would like, however, to point out a few hints to future candidates. They should read over the directions and the questions carefully before commencing their answers.

"Answers must be brief and to the point." Some answers were not brief, and were far from "being to the point." For instance,— several nurses in describing the preparation of nutrient enemata, made use of soap and water as the ingredients. Then again, an examiner does not like to have the patient referred to as "pt." As to the different kinds of haemorrhage met with in PREGNANCY, one candidate gave a very elaborate description of post partum haemorrhage, and omitted to refer to abortion, ectopic pregnancy, etc. The question, "How would you prepare artificial food for an infant from birth until the third month, was well answered by all. Nurses at St. Helens evidently learn all about humanised milk. A few nurses forgot to give directions as to quantities and strength at the various ages. They were satisfied with just writing: Humanised milk No. 1; humanised milk No. 2; and then giving in full, directions for making up. No mention as to kind of feeding bottle, care of bottle and teat, etc. May I quote in full three answers, which I consider were very good:—

Question 6.—What is ophthalmia? Describe the different kinds, and give their treatment:—

Ophthalmia is inflammation of the conjunctiva of the eye.

SIMPLE ophthalmia, in which the eye is inflamed and swollen, and there is a watery discharge.

1. Nurse must thoroughly scrub her hands.
2. Carefully bathe affected eye with a warm lotion, e.g., a weak solution of biniodide followed by boracic lotion.
3. Instil one drop of sol. silver nitrate, 1 per cent., in eye.
4. Bathe 4-hourly, or more often, if necessary.