

**MEMORANDUM EXPLANATORY OF THE GRANTS WHICH WILL BE MADE BY THE MINISTER OF HEALTH FOR THE TRAINING OF HEALTH VISITORS.**

**I.—INTRODUCTION.**

(1.) It has been decided that, as from the 1st April, 1925, the Exchequer grants in aid of the training of Health Visitors will be made by the Minister of Health instead of the Board of Education, and the revision of the courses of training described in the Board of Education (Health Visitors' Training) Regulations, 1919, has been under consideration in the light of the experience which has been gained since those Regulations have been in operation. The following paragraphs explain the changes that will be made.

(2.) In place of the shortened courses specified in Articles 7 and 8 of the Regulations of 1919, it has been decided to approve for the payment of grant a whole-time course of training in public health work lasting for a minimum period of six months and normally covering two academic terms. It will be observed from paragraphs 3 and 9 of the conditions of grant which are set out below that grants will be payable only in respect of students admitted to these courses who are "trained nurses" as defined in paragraph 1 of the conditions, and who have either obtained, or declared in writing their intention of obtaining, the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

It is recognised that six months is too short a period to enable a full training in public health work to be given, but the course should suffice to enable a nurse to acquire a reasonable understanding of the practical and theoretical aspects of her future duties.

(3.) For students who are not "trained nurses" the Minister will, for the time being, be prepared to approve for the payment of grant those courses of training of two years' duration which have already been recognised by the Board of Education under Articles 5 and 6 of the Regulations of 1919, but as indicated in paragraphs 4 and 9 of the conditions of grant, grants will be payable only in respect of students admitted to these courses who have obtained, or have declared in writing their intention to obtain, not less than six months' training in a Hospital, and also the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board. It will rest with the body organising a two years' course to satisfy the Minister that the necessary Hospital training is available for these students, but no grant will be payable in aid of this training. The courses of two years' duration will be obtainable only at the institutions

hitherto recognised by the Board of Education under their Regulations of 1919, and the Minister intends to review the position in regard to these courses in three years' time.

It will be observed from paragraph 10 of the conditions of grant that in the case of students who have begun an approved course of training prior to the 1st April, 1925, grants will be payable subject to the conditions set out in the Regulations of 1919. Paragraph 4 of the conditions of grant will not therefore apply to students who have already entered upon a two years' course approved under those Regulations.

(4.) As a condition of the payment of grant, a student who takes either of the courses of training mentioned above will be required to enter for an examination to be conducted by a central examining body approved by the Minister for this purpose. The examination will include the subjects named in paragraph 3 (2) of the conditions of grant, and will be partly written and partly oral. A Health Visitor's Certificate will be issued by the examining body under conditions approved by the Minister to any candidate who has passed the examination, but the Certificate will not be given until the examining body are satisfied that the student has completed the whole course of training specified in paragraph 3 or 4, as the case may be, of the conditions of grant. The Certificate may state the name of the body which has provided the course of training and the length of the course; it may also state any subject in which the candidate has passed with credit. Convenient centres in different parts of the country will be chosen for the examination.

(5.) The grant in aid of a course of training approved under paragraph 3 of the conditions of grant will be at a rate not exceeding £15 per student, while for a course approved under paragraph 4 of those conditions, the grant will, as at present, be at the rate of £20 a year per student. These grants will be paid to the bodies providing the courses, and it is the intention that the grant shall cover the cost of tuition. Where this is not the case the course of training must be supplied for grant-earning students at a fee which has been reduced by the amount of the grant, and it will be noted that the fees proposed to be charged for a course of training must be submitted for the Minister's approval.

(6.) The examination mentioned in paragraph (4) above will be open to women who have given satisfactory service as whole-time Health Visitors for a period of not less than five years, and who satisfy the examining body that they have had the necessary practical experience. It will not be required, as a condition of admission to the examination, that the Health Visitor shall previously attend any special course of instruction. The examining body may also, with the consent of the Minister in each individual case, admit to the examination women who have for not less than five years given satisfactory service as whole-time

officers of a Local Authority or Local Authorities, and have been engaged for part of that time as School Nurses, Tuberculosis Visitors, etc., if a material part of their time has been devoted to Health Visiting. A Health Visitor's Certificate will be issued by the examining body, under conditions approved by the Minister, to any Health Visitor or other officer of a Local Authority who is thus admitted to, and who passes, the examination.

(7.) The Minister has decided that *on and after the 1st April, 1928*, he will not approve the appointment of a woman *for the first time* as a whole-time officer of a Local Authority with Health Visiting duties unless she has obtained the Certificate mentioned in paragraph (4) above. The position of existing Health Visitors should, of course, be fully safeguarded and the Minister will be prepared to approve their re-appointment without further qualifications. But he hopes that in course of time many Health Visitors may be able to avail themselves of the opportunity explained in the preceding paragraph to obtain a Health Visitor's Certificate.

## II.—CONDITIONS UPON WHICH GRANTS WILL BE MADE.

### GENERAL.

1. For the purposes of these conditions—

“The Minister” means the Minister of Health.

“Recognised body” means a body, corporate or unincorporate, for the time being recognised by the Minister for the purposes of these conditions.

“Trained nurse” means a nurse who has completed a three years' course of training in a hospital which was during the period of her training, or has subsequently become, a training school approved by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, or the General Nursing Council for Scotland, or the General Nursing Council for Northern Ireland, for the purpose of admission to the general part of the Council's register or to the part for nurses trained in the nursing of sick children, or who has obtained admission to one of such parts of the register of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales under the provisions of Section 6 (1) of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919.

2. The conditions upon which the Minister may make grants to recognised bodies in respect of approved courses of training provided by them for persons who desire employment as Health Visitors are as follows :—

### TRAINING COURSES.

3.—(1) The Minister may approve for students who are trained nurses and who have obtained or have declared in writing

their intention of obtaining the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board, a whole-time course lasting for a minimum period of six months.

(2) Except in so far as the Minister may otherwise require or permit, the theoretical instruction comprised in the course must include instruction in—

- (i) Elementary physiology and the structure of the body ;
- (ii) Personal and domestic hygiene ; general hygiene and sanitation ;
- (iii) Infectious and communicable diseases, including tuberculosis and venereal diseases ;
- (iv) Maternity, infant and child welfare ;
- (v) School medical service ;
- (vi) Sanitary law and government, elementary economics, and social problems ;
- (vii) The principal legal enactments and regulations connected with the above-mentioned subjects.

(3) The practical instruction comprised in the course must be conducted, so far as practicable, in co-operation with the Public Health Department of the Local Authority for the area in which the course is given, and must be so arranged as to give each student reasonable opportunities of studying the practical aspect of the various branches of the curriculum.

4.—(1) The Minister may approve for students who have obtained or have declared in writing their intention of obtaining not less than six months' training in a General Fever, or Children's Hospital, and who have obtained or declared in writing their intention of obtaining the certificate of the Central Midwives Board, any whole-time course lasting for two years which was recognised by the Board of Education under the Board of Education (Health Visitors' Training) Regulations, 1919.

(2) The recognised body providing the course must satisfy the Minister that facilities for obtaining the six months' hospital training are available for the students.

5.—(1) Every course must be such as to provide adequate facilities for both theoretical and practical training.

(2) The recognised body providing the course must be responsible to the Minister for the whole of the arrangements which comprise the course, and the whole of these arrangements must be open at all times to inspection by authorised officers of the Ministry of Health.

#### APPROVAL OF COURSES.

6. A recognised body desiring to obtain the Minister's approval of a course must, before commencing the course, submit to the Minister the scheme or schemes of instruction and training of

which the course is intended to consist, and the scale of fees proposed to be charged.

7. A recognised body providing an approved course must satisfy itself that every student in respect of whom it is intended to claim grant—

- (i) Has had a previous education of such a kind that she is likely to profit by the course ; and
- (ii) At the commencement of the course has attained the age of 18, and has not attained the age of 35 or such later age as the body may with the consent of the Minister approve in any individual case.

#### EXAMINATIONS.

8. For the purpose of these conditions a student will not be regarded as having completed an approved course of training unless she has entered for an examination to be conducted by a body approved by the Minister for the purpose.

#### GRANTS.

9.—(1) Grant will be payable—

- (a) At a rate not exceeding £15 in respect of each duly qualified student who has completed a course of training approved under paragraph 3 ;
- (b) At the rate of £20 for each year of training in respect of each duly qualified student who has completed a course of training approved under paragraph 4.

(2) Each grant will be payable after the student to whom it relates has completed the course of training, but an instalment of such amount as the Minister thinks fit may be paid at the commencement of each term included in the course.

#### EXISTING STUDENTS.

10. In the case of students who have begun before the 1st day of April, 1925, a course of training approved under the Board of Education (Health Visitors' Training) Regulations, 1919, grants will be paid at the rates and subject to the conditions set out in those Regulations.

#### RECORDS AND RETURNS.

11. A recognised body shall keep such records and make such returns as may from time to time be required by the Minister.

#### NON-FULFILMENT OF CONDITIONS.

12. The payment of grant and the continuance of approval of courses and recognition of bodies providing courses is subject to the fulfilment of the above-mentioned conditions, but if any

of the conditions have not been fulfilled, such grant may be paid as the Minister may think fit if there are special circumstances which appear to him to justify such payment.

INTERPRETATION.

13. If any question arises as to the interpretation of these conditions, the decision of the Minister shall be final.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH,  
WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

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