

a Bland's pill twice a day, a spirit and resorcin lotion (containing a little oil) for the scalp and face, and Unna's hydrarg. carbol. plaster-mull for the encrusted patches have produced an improvement greater than the patient had supposed possible.

#### THE PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY OF BACKWARD CHILDREN.

Dr. W. B. Noyes has an article in the "Indian Medical Record" on this subject, which is interesting from the educational as well as the medical point of view. He classifies children similarly to Binet as to the degree of their influence to suggestibility, viz.: (1) Children of an automatic type, who obey passively and are models of discipline; (2) a sensitive class from whom obedience is obtained by appeal to their affections; (3) children who do best what they are told they cannot do, in which suggestion is called into action by the spirit of overcoming an obstacle; (4) those who are entirely inordinate, or are incapable of following any suggestion at all. To this last class belong the backward and feeble-minded. Temporarily also many neurotic children are included with a condition closely allied to hysteria, or who are epileptic or choreic, but are capable of improvement if their health is ameliorated. In some of these cases the suggestibility is excessive. There are all kinds and grades of feeble-minded children, and many can scarcely be regarded as imbeciles or idiots. One particular aptitude may only be defective, and training should be modified accordingly. Dr. Noyes distinguishes them psychologically as follows:

1. Those in whom perception is deficient, who are born with defect of one or more of the special senses—in extreme cases, the so-called idiots by deprivation.

2. Those who lack all power of attention and so make no advance; in whom fatigue is at once produced by every kind of mental or motor exertion. Some of these cases often stammer and are subject to irregular movements.

3. Those with defect of will-power, varying from sluggishness to irresolution. This may be due to an insensibility affecting the emotional life, or a morbid fear, or an imperative idea. There may be uncontrollable, passionate outbursts leading to criminal impulses. In others, the will may be in abeyance from mental states allied to hysteria or hypnotism.

4. Those in which perception, attention, and will seem normal, but are defective in their powers of comparison, their judgment, reason, or common sense, and where the feeble-mindedness is not so early manifested.

5. Those in which the already-mentioned mental powers are fairly well developed, but who fail in memory or who have special amnesias.

6. The morally defective in all grades, with or without failure in other mental respects, and the most marked types belonging to the study of criminology.

7. A group best classed under the heading of stupidity, and in pronounced cases being demented, in which all the mental powers are affected alike. They possess their senses, but they do not perceive.

### Appointments.

#### MATRONS.

Miss Blanche M. Parker has been appointed Matron of the Iver, Langley, and Denham Cottage Hospital. She was trained at the London Hospital, and has held the positions of Charge Nurse at the Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby, Sister at the Royal Infirmary, Bristol, and Assistant Matron at the Leicester Infirmary.

Miss Catherine Macdonell has been appointed Matron at the Cottage Hospital, Westbury, Wilts. She was trained for three years at the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool, and subsequently held the positions of Sister at the Jaffray Hospital, Birmingham, Night Sister at the Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury, Sister of a Male Ward of fifty-eight beds at the same Infirmary, and Matron of the Infirmary, Pembroke.

Miss Baxter has been appointed Matron of the Infectious Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne. She was trained at the Bolton Borough Fever Hospital, and has held the positions of Assistant Nurse at Stockport, and Nurse at Birkenhead Fever Hospitals, Charge Nurse at Sunderland Sanatorium, Superintendent Nurse at Houghall Fever Hospital, near Durham, and for the last eighteen months Matron at Hebburn Fever Hospital.

#### SISTER.

Miss Louise Francois de Chaumont has been appointed Sister to a block of women's wards at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan. Miss de Chaumont received her training at the Wigan Infirmary from 1891 to 1894, and subsequently worked for five years in connection with the Bradford Eye and Ear Hospital.

We learn that the appointment of Miss Warbuton at the Wigan Infirmary was that of Sister, not of Nurse, as stated in a recent issue.

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