

the accompaniment of an orchestra. The Pump Room is usually full of every description of personality. There you may indeed see, even in these days, Jane Austen's characters come to life. Costumes that were fashionable when Queen Victoria sat on the throne, cheek by jowl with all the most ultra-modern production of our present age. Father Time laughs at it all. Costumes may alter, humanity changes but little intrinsically, and aches and pains, gout and nerves still continue to pester us, as before. You will thus see that life is most pleasantly varied in this work, but whilst you enjoy a social side, there is a veritable need of great attention to the patients who arrive often in a very debilitated condition, nervy and worn out through pain and inability to move freely. Psychologically an immense work lies in the hands of the personnel of the Spa, and it is cheering to note the benefit derived from the waters, and care of such cases. All patients are externe. There is the Royal Mineral Water Hospital for regular hospital cases, who are too poor to afford to stay at hotels and take the Spa treatment.

I trust that after perusing this, some of you may feel that those of us in "Spa" work are not wasting our time. With all the research work going forward on rheumatism, I venture to predict that Spas will eventually really "come into their own" and be regarded not only as pleasure resorts, but as veritable places of healing.

### THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

It is interesting to know that a Society for the Treatment of Functional Nervous Diseases has been formed and there is a likelihood of the early establishment of a nursing home for the treatment of such disorders in their early stages.

Mrs. G. M. Clarke, who initiated the movement, is the honorary secretary, and those who are interested in the new Society should communicate with her at 15, Lancaster Gate, W.2.

Two houses in a good position at Belsize Park have been secured on a 999 years' lease. At the beginning accommodation will be found for twenty-five patients, and there is room for extension.

An anonymous donor has offered to provide £61,500 towards providing an infectious diseases hospital for Wakefield, which for many years has been an urgent necessity. The corporation, it is understood, were prepared to spend £5,000, and they had a site worth £4,500.

When opening a health exhibition in Edinburgh recently, on behalf of the extension funds of the Royal Infirmary, Sir James Barrie, Chancellor of the University, spoke of his experiences among the French children at a civilian hospital which he conducted near Verdun during the War. "It was a hospital for children wounded by the guns; French children, many of them very badly wounded, without an arm or a leg, the eldest not more than ten and many of them almost babes. The hospital was in a chateau, which had been lent to us. On the very first night, when the children were asleep, part of the ceiling fell. A nurse ran into the room wondering why she had not heard the children screaming and thinking it was a bomb—for they were used to bombs. When she opened the door she found those eight little Roman Catholics kneeling by their bedsides praying."

The centenary meeting of the British Medical Association will be held at Worcester this year, and Lord Dawson of Penn, as president for the year, will preside over the proceedings.

The invitation of the Royal Society of Medicine that the next International Congress of Neurologists should be held in London in 1935 has been accepted.

### NURSING THE LEPERS IN JERUSALEM.

By Mrs. Hutton, S.R.N., F.B.C.N.

The Leper Home in Jerusalem is the only one of its kind in Palestine. It is a part of the missionary work of the Moravian Church, and is administered by a Board in London; the work of the Home is done by trained nurses, each of whom goes out for five years and then has six months' furlough. The present Matron, Miss O. Norgaard, a Danish trained nurse has worked for more than 27 years in the Home, with intervals of furlough, and loves the work.

The daily routine is as follows:—

The nurses get up at five-thirty, and after a cup of tea and a biscuit they begin the work of washing the patients and doing the many dressings; also at this time the patients get their daily dose of chaulmoogra oil and any other medicine which may have been ordered by the medical officer.

Breakfast is served for nurses and patients at seven o'clock; after which the Matron holds prayers in the Prayer Hall of the Home; prayers are not compulsory, but many of the patients like to come. When prayers are over, the nurses carry on with their dressings in the special bandaging room; all this work is done under antiseptic conditions, and it speaks well for the care taken that in all the 64 years that the Home has been in existence there has never once been a case of infection of any member of the nursing or domestic staff.

When dressings are over there are the many duties of the ordinary hospital to be attended to, such as making beds, sweeping, dusting, scrubbing lockers and cleaning generally. It is almost impossible to find Arab women to help in the Home in these many duties—they are too terrified of the disease—and in most cases the patients themselves are too ill to do much in the way of helping. So this work must of necessity fall on the nurses; as also the washing and ironing and mending of the patients' linen.

One nurse is always on duty in the kitchen, to superintend the cooking of the food and to look after that department.

Dinner is served at noon; and after this meal is over the patients are encouraged to be in the open air, and those who are able to do a little work have a small patch of garden for themselves, where they grow onions or any other small plants that they may fancy.

The nurses have an hour's rest, and at three o'clock they have a cup of coffee with cake. Then they begin work in the sewing room, either mending or making for the patients. Six o'clock is supper time for all; afterwards any necessary dressings are done, and the helpless patients are washed and put to bed. Lights are put out at nine o'clock; but some of the patients do not like to be left in the dark, so they are provided with small oil lamps.

The patients themselves are very shy of outside people; they are very conscious of their deformities, and resent being looked at by strangers. Most of the poor things are very disfigured by the many nodules on their faces; some have hands without fingers or feet without toes; some are blind or almost blind. They really are a pathetic lot of folk, and have my prayers and sympathy.

Under modern treatment the early and slight cases have so far recovered as to be able to return to their homes; but the medical officer, a wise man and himself a native of the land, does not lay claim to "cures"; he discharges them "free from bacilli," and has them coming back for re-examination and tests every three months.

At least six have stood the test for the last two years; they are free from infection, able to live once more among their fellow men and earn their living like the rest, and with only their scars to show that once they were lepers. We are thankful to know that the numbers of the lepers are growing steadily less as the years go by; we live in the hope that leprosy is dying out in the Holy Land.

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