

Sir Allen Daley has applied his great talents unreservedly to the duties of his office, and his capacity for grasping the problems of his work, down to the smallest detail, has won him the confidence of members of the Council and the admiration of his staff. His diligence and high standards of efficiency have given an inspiring lead to all who have worked with him for the benefit of the people of London. His own example, his warm interest in every member of his staff, and his easy approachability have without doubt been responsible for much of value that has been achieved in the administration of the Council's health services. It was recommended—

“That the Council do place on record its high appreciation of the services of Sir Allen Daley, M.D., B.S., B.A., B.Sc., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., Hon.M.M., as medical officer of health.”

### Nursing Shortage Impedes Mental Health Services.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (Mr. Harry Crookshank) described the recruitment of nurses for mental hospitals as “one of the most difficult and intractable of our problems” when he opened a local recruitment campaign for mental nurses at Bracebridge Heath Hospital, Lincoln recently. “Unlike other types of hospital, the need of mental hospitals and mental deficiency institutions for more staff is just as great now as when the National Health Service came into operation,” said the Minister.

Whereas in the first three years of the Service there was an increase of 25 per cent. in full-time nurses and 38 per cent. in part-time nurses employed in general hospitals in England and Wales, in mental hospitals the increase was only 2.6 per cent. for full-time nurses and 29 per cent. for part-timers, and in mental deficiency institutions 2 per cent. and 31 per cent. respectively.

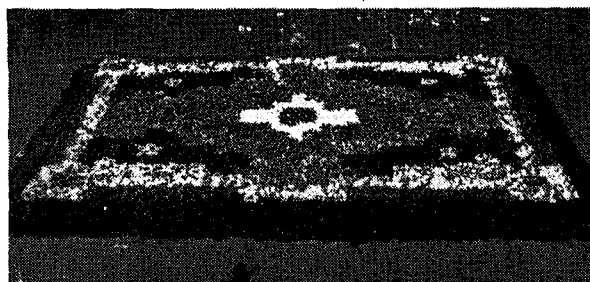
“The contrast is even more striking when one considers the number of student nurses,” remarked Mr. Crookshank. “In these three years the number of student nurses in general hospitals rose from 30,603 to 38,284, but in mental hospitals there was a decline from 4,955 to 4,519 and in mental deficiency institutions from 1,267 to 1,102.”

Despite restrictions on capital expenditure and the small increase in nursing staff, the number of staff beds increased in the same years by 9,652 (or 6.9 per cent.) in mental hospitals, and by 2,368 (or 4.7 per cent.) in mental deficiency institutions. Nevertheless, over 2,000 beds in mental hospitals and nearly 2,000 in mental deficiency institutions are out of use because of staff shortages.

Mr. Crookshank suggested that one of the main reasons for the staff shortage was the public's ignorance of the conditions in which mental patients are now treated and of the great progress that has been made in methods of treatment. “The mental nurse is no longer a mere keeper or attendant but is, like the general nurse, trained in the administration of various forms of treatment, many of which are of absorbing interest,” he remarked. “Again, like the general nurse, the mental nurse has the satisfaction of seeing a large proportion of patients cured of their ailments and returned to happy and useful lives.”

“Because of the country's desperate economic plight, a general expansion of the Health Service is impossible at present; but within the Service the needs of the mental hospitals are among the most urgent,” said the Minister, adding, “A campaign such as this, aimed at securing the means to make the most of available physical resources, must surely command the whole-hearted support of all who have the interests of the service at heart.”

### A Floral Festival.



A Carpet of Flowers

WE LEARN FROM a colleague of a wonderful Floral Festival staged in the Town Hall at St. Arnaud, Victoria, Australia, the proceeds from which have furnished two rooms in the Nurses' Home of the District Hospital.

Amongst many exhibits we hear that a floral carpet was a masterpiece; there was also depicted a bushland scene, a floral map of Australia, each State being depicted in different coloured blooms; a deep red cross on a white ground; a miniature house in a miniature garden, a great attraction, the exhibit of Miss L. E. Wheeler, a late Matron there; and very many other charming contributions.

We must congratulate the people of St. Arnaud for the very novel and colourful way in which they responded to the needs of the nurses serving in their midst.

### Commonwealth and Empire Health and Tuberculosis Conference, July 8th to 13th, 1952.

THIS CONFERENCE IS OPEN to all interested in preventive medicine, including the medical and veterinary professions, commercial and industrial executives, nurses, social workers, health administrators, members of public authorities, regional hospital boards, etc. At the last Conference held in 1949 over a thousand delegates from fifty countries were present, and representatives from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Fiji, France, Gold Coast, India, Yugoslavia, New Zealand, South Africa, Trinidad and the U.S.A., have already arranged to attend this year.

Interesting subjects for discussion include PROTECTIVE VACCINATION, CONTEMPORARY IDEAS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE TUBERCULOUS PATIENT, THE SOCIAL WORKER AND THE TUBERCULOUS FAMILY, THE PATIENT IN INDUSTRY and TUBERCULOSIS IN BRITISH COLONIAL TERRITORIES. Amongst those who have already promised to speak are Dr. G. C. Brink, Department of Health, Ontario, Canada, Dr. B. A. Dormer, Chief Tuberculosis Officer, Union of South Africa, Dr. J. B. McDougall, World Health Organisation, and Mr. T. Holmes Sellors, Thoracic Surgeon, London.

A new feature of the Conference will be special smaller gatherings for those with particular interest, whether doctors, nurses, public health officials or social workers, at which appropriate subjects will be discussed. Receptions for delegates are being held at many well-known institutions, and a large number of visits to hospitals and sanatoria have been arranged in addition to tours of general interest.

All information can be obtained from the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

Crocus Time, Oh, Crocus Time,  
Drifts of Purple, Gold and White  
Crocus Time.  
Let all the people sing.

A. R. B.

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