

conscious thought was raised that it was worth a visit, and the scene was visited mentally.

It is impossible to conceive a thought without some article, action or quality associated with it.

The interpretation of dreams has been the subject of attention by Professor Freud of Vienna and other psychologists, who often consider them as a disguised "wish fulfilment" which are a symbolised expression of repressed or latent complexes, dramatised by incidents of the present.

Dreams thus investigated sometimes throw light on the essence of psychic trauma, which is often at the root of some patients' morbid ideas and moods.

From the physical standpoint, dreams may generally be regarded as due to dissociation of the cortex, which is in a state of comparative activity, the motor areas of the cortex causing a wakeful memory or imagination.

Any sensation caused by the sleeper on the body or near it, or if due to a disordered organ may produce only partial sleep, afferent impressions causing dreams to occur, before the sleeper is aroused to full consciousness, thus these dreams seen, felt and heard may have a symbolic meaning.

Sometimes the dream is a warning of danger, the mental pictures are therefore some thoughts of the dreamer or some message from another person conveyed in the form of a pictured incident.

Treatment of the interpretation of dreams by those who practise psychotherapy play an important part for investigation with the aid of psycho-analysis.

### A Nightmare.

IN 1914 I JOINED UP under one of the oldest Nursing Orders for war service, and was sent to the "East Coast" for duty.

Preparations on a vast scale were taking place there, as it was expected that the Germans would attempt a landing; and when in course of time, I found myself in charge of the hospital, I received instructions as to how to act in the event of an invasion by the enemy.

In the first place, I was to see all the patients and staff off the premises—the transport arrangements were already written down, to the smallest detail—and then I, myself, was to stand by, to guard the equipment until further orders arrived.

My dreams at night usually took the form of "German invasions"; but I think the climax was reached on that night when, in my dreams, I saw the Crown Prince alight on our lawn from an airship.

I do not know if I should have stayed and faced the Germans, alone and unaided; I sometimes have doubts on the point; but I am glad to say my courage was not put to the test.

A. M. HILL.

### London's Nursing Reserve Target.

THE FOUR METROPOLITAN Hospital Regions have 6,000 National Hospital Service Reservists out of their peace-time target of 20,000.

To stimulate recruiting in the metropolitan area an exhibit featuring the Reserve was part of the Civil Defence contribution to London's "Lend Strength to Britain" Savings Week in Trafalgar Square.

Photographs showed members of the Reserve nursing in hospital, and doing first-aid in a realistic Civil Defence exercise. Throughout the week members of St. John Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Society—these two organisations train those joining the Reserve as nursing auxiliaries—were on duty to explain the rôle of the Reserve.

### British Children for Treatment in Danish Sanatoria

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS have now been made for the departure for Vordingborg in Denmark of the first party of 25 British children who will benefit by the Anglo-Danish Society's scheme for their treatment at a Danish sanatorium.

Dr. J. H. Harley-Williams, Secretary-General of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, and Mr. Robert Jorgensen, Hon. Organiser of the Anglo-Danish Fund, have returned from Vordingborg where they have arranged details for the children's arrival.

Funds to meet the cost of transport and maintenance of this and subsequent parties of British children suffering from tuberculosis will be met from the special fund created for the purpose by the Anglo-Danish Society.

H.H. Princess Georg of Denmark who is Chairman of the Appeal Committee, said of the scheme: "It is this sort of practical co-operation that more than anything else deepens the understanding between nations." She was at Northolt to bid farewell to the first of what it is hoped will be a steady stream for years to come.

The ages of the children range from eight to 15. There are 14 boys and 11 girls and they come mainly from the London Metropolitan area, and from the Birmingham and Oxford regions. Selection was made by the medical committee of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, in conjunction with local health authorities. Sister Helen Christie, whose home is in Glasgow, was specially released from the Chest Clinic of University College Hospital, to look after the children on their journey by specially chartered plane.

The British Red Cross Society collected the children from their homes and took them to a reception centre in London. A Red Cross Welfare Officer, Miss Pearl Cunningham, accompanied the children and will stay with them during the period of their treatment to assist with their education and keep in touch with their parents. She is in her early twenties and has specialised in this type of work.

The nursing staff at Vordingborg are busily perfecting their English to help to make their little visitors feel at home.

It is expected that treatment in most cases will last about six months.

Denmark has the lowest mortality rate from tuberculosis in the world, the rate having fallen to 14 per 100,000. The equivalent figure in England and Wales is about 50 per 100,000.

Since the war Danish doctors and nurses have taken a leading part in the international fight against tuberculosis, and about 20 million people in all parts of the world have been treated with Danish serum.

### Blood Donors set up Peace Time Record.

GIFTS OF BLOOD TO HOSPITALS in England and Wales through the National Blood Transfusion Service in 1951 totalled 593,818, an increase of 70,000 on the previous year. Except for 1944—D Day year—when there were 669,000 donations, this response has never been bettered.

There were 114,384 new donors enrolled during the year bringing the total strength to 465,137—another post-war record.

The Service still needs 170,000 more donors. This is to avoid calling on existing donors more than twice a year, to replace those reaching the retiring age of 65, and to provide a reasonable reserve of blood plasma.

In the last quarter of 1951, over 29,000 new donors were enrolled and blood gifts totalled 153,446.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)