

Disciplinary and Penal Cases.

The Council considered the following cases and pronounced their judgment:—

Leonard Clarke, S.R.N. 191015, judgment postponed for one year; Honoria Teresa O'Connell, S.R.N. 144811, Registrar was directed to remove her name from the Register of Nurses; Ronald Wilson, S.R.N. 175946, Registrar directed to remove his name from the Register of Nurses; James Trevor Chambers, S.R.N. 215119, R.M.N. 21151, case was dismissed with a caution; Frieda Howard (*née* Pounder), S.R.N. 41568, case was dismissed with a caution.

The Next Meeting of the Council.

The next meeting of the Council was fixed for Wednesday, December 21st, 1955.

A Message from the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health.

To Medical Officers of Health and others Working in the Field of Child Welfare.

SINCE 1940 eleven and a half million children have been immunised against diphtheria and the incidence has fallen from a yearly average of 58,000 cases with 2,800 deaths in the years 1930-39, to 167 cases with 9 deaths in 1954.

These are really remarkable facts, evidence of the vast amount of work done in this field by Medical Officers of Health and their staffs, and by family doctors. They must give all of us great satisfaction. But they should not be taken to imply that the story of diphtheria is yet finished.

A generation of parents is growing up that does not know and, therefore, does not fear this disease. To them poliomyelitis, whooping cough and measles have become more important and this is understandable. Our past success has become our greatest handicap, and it now requires increased efforts to maintain, let alone improve, the level of immunisation.

Diphtheria could return in its old killing epidemic form and we must safeguard against this by ensuring a high level of immunisation among children. This is particularly important among infants under one year. Only 36 per cent. were immunised in 1954, although their immunisation should come to be regarded as the essential condition of success in keeping diphtheria in check. While our immediate objective must be to improve the rate, the time has come to look beyond this. Based on our past success there is now surely a practical possibility of driving diphtheria altogether from this country. This can be done, but only by sustained effort in the work of immunisation.

I am asking you to help to write the final chapter in the story of diphtheria in this country by continuing to exercise your local influence in convincing all parents of young children of their very real responsibility for making use of the free immunisation service offered to them.

(Signed) J. N. CHARLES.

Hospitals of the Future.

Doctors and Architects Put Forward their Views.

BOTH ARCHITECTS and doctors expressed their views on the design of health buildings at a meeting held by the Royal Society of Health in London on November 16th.

Speaking on clinical requirements, Dr. A. B. Stewart, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, London County Council, said that splendidly equipped and expertly staffed clinics situated half-a-mile uphill would be ignored by mothers who would cheerfully push a perambulator twice the distance on level ground to attend a clinic housed in unsatisfactory surroundings.

Dr. C. W. Gordon, of the Birmingham Regional Hospital

Board, said that in the design of new hospitals there was no place for standardisation, rigidity and uniformity. The patient should feel that he was welcomed and not repelled.

This was endorsed by Mr. A. H. Devereux, a London architect, who advocated that outpatients should have to queue or wait for registration. Instead, he wanted them to be provided with a beautiful and comfortable reception room where flowers, plants and works of art would make them feel at home.

Mr. D. A. Goldfinch, Architect to the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, pointed out that Spain had recently proceeded with a large hospital building programme which was worthy of careful study by all engaged in the architectural field of health buildings.

Rector of Teheran University Visits Britain.

DR. MANOUCHEHR EGHBAL, Rector of Teheran University, Iran, arrived in London on the evening of 1st December, for a two weeks' visit, under the auspices of the British Council, to study British university administration, the health services and medical training.

Dr. Eghbal, who studied medicine in Teheran and Paris universities, was Minister of Health from 1944 to 1946 and again in 1948. Between 1948 and 1950 he headed successively the Ministries of Education, Interior and Communications. He became a member of the Senate in 1954.

He was appointed to his present position in January, since when the university has been undergoing a good deal of reform and expansion. Dr. Eghbal wants to strengthen the ties between his own university and universities in Western Europe.

On the morning of 6th December, he met the Minister of Health, Mr. Iain Macleod, and senior officials of the Ministry, and in the afternoon visited Middlesex Hospital Medical School. Appointments were arranged at London University, and he visited the Radio Chemical Centre at Amersham to see something of the medical uses of atomic energy.

He visited Oxford on 9th December, Cambridge on 10th December, and Birmingham on 12th and 13th December. He spent the remainder of his visit, which ended on 16th December in London and his programme included appointments with senior officials of the Ministry of Education.

Book Review.

Lamp on the Snow.*

By Mary E. Hope.

A NURSE'S EXPERIENCES in Canada's Far North.

Fresh from her training school of 900 beds, Mary E. Hope chose a "solitary" life in a French Canadian village, 90 miles from the nearest town.

Matron of the Cottage Hospital, Health Visitor, Midwife and general adviser on social welfare, to mention just a few of her activities. An amazing undertaking for any individual.

Her obvious love of humanity and sense of humour no doubt helped her to overcome her many problems.

She gives us a delightful picture of Lumber-Jacks and their families, Farmers, Storekeepers, Teachers, Postman, Policeman, and all found a place in her affections.

An entertaining story somewhat crude in parts, but no doubt true to life.

Miss Hope has a definite gift of story telling. My ideal Christmas gift.

D. B.

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