

best institutions for the mentally afflicted in America owe their origin.

The roll of fame in an international record was not complete without the names of Guislain, in Belgium, and Schroeder van der Kolk in Holland; whilst Italy and Spain were to-day in the forefront with scientific investigators into the pathology of nervous disease and insanity.

Simultaneously with the teaching of Pinel in France, William and Samuel Tuke, at York, were advocating the "quality of being human," and arguing the like sympathetic treatment of insanity. Thus the transformation from prejudice, superstition, and castigation in the treatment of insanity to the considerate, humane, and scientific treatment of to-day was a record of only a little over one hundred years. Until then the theory of insanity was based on demoniacal possession, and its treatment barbarously inhuman.

The lecturer spoke of the good work done by the London County Council in special and watchful care of the insane in London, and of the great initial incentive given to the care of the insane by the influence and example of Miss Florence Nightingale.

The employment of competent attendants of superior education and good character was urged by the English Lunacy Commissioners in a report to the Lord Chancellor in 1859; and, again, in 1879, they drew attention to the insufficiency of wages given to the nursing staffs of asylums as a barrier to progress and a cause of drawbacks and scandals.

Dr. Jones urged the necessity of co-operation amongst nurses, and their right in common with other professions to "an adequate reward for honest service." He supported the demand for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and said that the mental nurse, like the hospital nurse, had a career beyond the institution, and her services were more valuable to the public and to herself when it could be certified that she was fully qualified, proficient, and acknowledged.

Dr. Jones considered that all the great public asylums should also be training schools for nurses of both sexes. Where this was the case a higher class of applicant was obtained and a more enlightened interest taken by the nurses in their duties as a result of the teaching imparted to them.

Training tended to the diminution, if not to the prevention, of mental disease, by educating the public to the value of mental hygiene, and by directing attention to the mental aspects of bodily illness. Training also tended to promote the public good by encouraging early and skilled treatment of the insane, for insanity was curable in the inverse ratio of its duration.

The Medico-Psychological Association had issued a handbook for the guidance and instruction of nurses and attendants, and also granted a certificate after examination upon the completion of a three years' curriculum. The only regret felt about the period of study was that hospitals did not as yet reciprocate the action of the Association in considering a year spent in a recognised asylum as the equivalent of a year in a recognised hospi-

tal. In concluding his most interesting address, Dr. Jones quoted from a recent report presented by him to the Claybury Committee of the London County Council, in which he said:—"My experience of over a quarter of a century, and my long and special interest in this question, convinces me that efficient nurses are a substantial auxiliary and a helpful element in the treatment of insanity. Training improves the tact of the person trained, it increases skill, and gives greater accuracy to reports through improved observation of symptoms. Training also has a broadening and elevating effect upon attendants, and it develops and confirms what is best and strongest in a womanly nature—viz., tenderness and care for others."

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SESSION said that Dr. Jones' interesting, instructive, and uplifting paper fulfilled in every respect one of the chief objects of the Congress—i.e., to come together to learn what each country is doing, to take from each their best ideas. They would all for the future have a much more ready understanding of the methods employed in English asylums in the care of the insane. Before going on to the next paper, she called on Mr. H. V. Rowe, Chairman of the Asylums Committee of the London County Council and head of the Lunacy Administration in London, to address the Congress.

Mr. H. V. Rowe said that he came on behalf of the Asylums' Committee of the London County Council to extend to the members of the Congress who were devoting their lives to an arduous and trying branch of their profession a hearty welcome to London, also an invitation to visit any of the great asylums gathered round the outskirts of London. Mr. Rowe then expressed his keen appreciation of the paper just read by Dr. Robert Jones, than whom no one stood higher in the estimation of the lunacy world of London. The amelioration of the condition of nurses and attendants referred to in that paper was the daily, hourly consideration of the Asylums' Committee. They were trying to do the best they could—if he added for the money, they must excuse that from a business man's point of view. The asylums of London had improved enormously in the last thirty or forty years, in fact, they were getting almost too popular. The London County Council had now the care of 20,000 people in its asylums, whereas twenty years ago it had only 10,000. There were ten asylums under its control scattered round the outskirts of London, and another was now being built. Whether the members of the Congress who responded to the invitation of the Asylums' Committee went north, south, east, or west they would find them. It was difficult for him as Chairman of that Committee to point to one institution as better than another, if that were possible, but Claybury Asylum, where Dr. Jones was Resident Physician, was one of the most perfect.

He hoped the result of the deliberations of the Congress would be to improve the condition of the nurses and attendants and also of the patients in asylums. The London County Council was ready to accept any skilled advice it could get which would assist it in its endeavour to get rid of the awful curse of lunacy, and, on behalf of the London

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