

been much hotter than the previous one the woman replied: "Oh! yes; but if you remember you said you thought of me every time it was hot, and no one had said that to me for so long; it has made me happy the whole month, for the hotter it was the oftener I knew you were thinking about me."

In reply to a question as to how patients were committed in this country, Dr. JONES replied that there was one law for the rich and one for the poor. The rich man needed two doctors to certify him, whereas the poor needed only one. The usual method, fortunately he thought, for the poor, was that there was a divided authority. The County Council, of which Mr. Rowe was Chairman of the Asylums' Committee, was the body responsible for providing the accommodation for the poor of London. It also had power, by law, to provide accommodation for the fairly rich, so that at Claybury there were both rich and poor. Before the latter came to the asylum they came under the care of the Poor Law Guardians, with whom was vested the administration of the Poor Law. As insanity was one of the most expensive of all illnesses, and essentially impoverished the sufferers, they were taken at once to the workhouse, where they were certified insane, and then transferred to the care of the County Council. It was now proposed to introduce legislation to allow the County Council to take charge of all persons suffering from insanity from the very beginning, so that they might be brought direct from their homes under its care.

In reply to a question from the President of the Session, Dr. Jones said that the nurses in asylums had considerable experience in general nursing. The certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association, however, only certified their competency in mental nursing. He would like as much interchange as possible between the general hospitals and the asylums. At present, to become proficient in both general and mental nursing, a woman had to spend six years in training. If the hospitals would only recognise training in an asylum so as to shorten the combined training to four years it would be a very great boon.

Dr. Jones referred to the use of the word graduate in America with much appreciation, and said he would like to see the word "nurse graduate" introduced into this country. He saw no difference between a man who obtained a B.A. degree and a woman who passed practically an equivalent examination in her own sphere, and yet was only called a certificated nurse. The distinction was a very invidious one.

He added that he had never before been at a Congress where women had been in so considerable a majority. It had strikingly demonstrated the ability, competence, and extreme capability of women to manage their own affairs.

In reply to a question as to the possibility of the provision of better nursing in private asylums, Dr. Jones said the question was one he was quite incompetent to answer in the limited time at his disposal. The answer was very fully given in Dr. Russell's paper, which he hoped to study further when it was published.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK said she could not speak

on the care of the insane as an expert, never having had the privilege of working in an asylum, but she had listened to the papers delivered that morning, and to the extremely interesting information placed before the meeting, and she thought it would be a pity to separate without any definite result. She would suggest a conference on mental nursing. To attempt to do justice to such a question as the nursing of the insane in a few hours was impossible. If the Medico-Psychological Association and the Matrons of the asylums would conjointly call a conference in London in the autumn to discuss the nursing of the insane and the standard of education required for mental nurses, it would be helpful to those drafting the Nurses' Registration Bill to be introduced into Parliament next Session.

At the request of the President of the Session Mrs. Fenwick incorporated her suggestion in the following resolution:—

"That in view of the introduction of a Nurses' Registration Bill into the House of Commons next Session, this Congress requests Dr. Robert Jones, with his colleagues of the Medico-Psychological Association and the Matrons of the asylums, to convene a conference on mental nursing in London, in order to discuss this important branch of nursing service."

The Resolution was seconded by Miss Andrew, and carried unanimously, and Dr. Jones said he would have pleasure in bringing it before the next meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association.

Mrs. Hampton Robb suggested that all present should take the resolution back to their different countries and see what they could do with it there. No question that had come before that great Congress could be more important than this of the Care of the Insane. The specialists on insanity had been working very hard and very bravely, and done splendid things without nurses trained in general work. Now Dr. Jones asked these nurses to take asylum workers kindly. She thought rather we should ask them to take us kindly, because we had been losing great opportunities. Let us make them ours as soon as possible.

The Session concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Jones, moved by Miss Goodrich and seconded by Miss Dock.

#### PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION.

On Thursday morning, in the small hall, Miss S. F. Palmer took the chair, and gave an informal talk, on the subject of professional organisation, to a most interested audience, who, as she subsequently informed the larger meeting in the Council Chamber, hurled questions at her with such rapidity that she arrived there somewhat exhausted. Miss Palmer described the effects of registration of nurses in New York State, during the first four years after the passing of the Act, when the Board of Nurse Examiners were working on unbroken ground with no precedent to guide them, and gave interesting details as to its procedure, notably in regard to securing satisfactory evidence of moral character.

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