

## National Association for Providing Rational Curative Treatment for Alcoholism and the Drug Habit.

A big title, and for that reason a symbol of the greatness of its aims and the sound scientific basis upon which it rests.

For the purpose of making known the existence of the Association to those who are unacquainted with it, and consequently to enlist their sympathies and co-operative help, an "At Home" was recently given at the Women's Institute, in Victoria Street, by Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Barnes, and Miss Beatrice Kent.

An enjoyable programme of music was provided, and in the interval of the parts a paper was read by Miss Horne dealing with the subject matter. To all those nurses and others who were not able to be present, and who are interested in the great problem of inebriety and the greater cause of preventive and curative treatment (and who is not?) a brief recapitulation of the history, aims, objects, and methods of the Association will doubtless be a welcome enlightenment.

Nine years ago a lady became possessed of a doctor's prescription, which had been carefully prepared after many experiments, for the purpose of creating alcoholic aversion in inebriates. The lady, herself a trained nurse, knew the value of it, and, anxious to make the best possible use of it, took council with a few friends, with the result that they formed themselves into an Association; but just when they were about to invite the co-operation of the medical profession, this little philanthropic band—for various family and domestic reasons—became disbanded, and so the good work ceased at its inception. Only for a time, however; after a short period of quiescence, the Association was re-formed and active work begun.

The basis of operation is this:—To co-operate with the medical profession, to show any medical man the prescriptions who is willing to try the experiment, which many have done, and have expressed their sympathy with the treatment and their entire satisfaction with the results.

The prescriptions are not given broadcast to the medical profession at present, for this reason only: because it is felt that if this were done, there would be no guarantee whatever that every doctor would use them without alteration. The success of the treatment depends, not on any special drug, but in the combination of drugs and the method of administration. The Association has been recommended by a doctor to adhere to its principle of making the prescriptions public to the medical profession to the extent it does only. It will readily be seen that if the prescriptions were in any way modified, and unsatisfactory results followed, the treatment would at once be discredited.

Other objects of the Association are:—

"To endeavour to educate the public to realise that alcoholism and the drug habit are definite

maladies requiring therapeutic, sympathetic, and individual treatment for as long as each case may require, just as in other illnesses.

"To treat the poor gratuitously as long as public support is forthcoming.

"To treat persons of limited means at a cost which covers medicinal and office expenses only.

"To keep in touch as far as possible with patients when convalescent, and to endeavour to obtain employment for them if needed."

Thus, it will be seen that the treatment is perfectly orthodox, as there is an absence of secrecy, and no case is treated without medical supervision. The Association has no financial interest whatever in the concern—merely philanthropic. The co-operation of all is earnestly invited by various methods:—

1. By annual subscriptions to:—General Fund for organisation work; free treatment fund; philanthropic home fund.

2. By becoming members (fee, from 1s. per annum), which constitutes helping in the following ways:—

(a) By making the aims and objects of the Association known.

(b) By helping to collect for the proposed philanthropic home and free case fund.

(c) By procuring new members.

(d) By visiting patients when required.

(e) By helping to find work for patients when convalescents.

(f) By helping to collect clothes for patients requiring a fresh start in life.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary at the office, 65, Upper Gloucester Place, N.W.

The success of the treatment has so far been so great as to justify its claim to being both rational and curative. It has also been tried in Dublin, and all medical men report favourably on it. It is to be earnestly hoped that the readers of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, an organ which stands for progress and reform, will not treat this merely as an item of professional news, but will do all in their power to help forward this great cause. The Association keeps in touch with the patients, and proofs can be obtained of cases where there has been no return of alcoholism six and eight years after treatment. This is surely encouraging.

B. K.

### COMING EVENTS.

May 17th.—The Infants' Hospital, S.W. A Course of Lectures on Babies. III.—Zymotic Enteritis. The Signs and Symptoms. Prevention and Treatment. By Dr. Ralph Vincent. Lecture Theatre, 5 p.m.

May 27th.—Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute. Conference of representatives of affiliated Associations. Caxton Hall, Westminster.

May 28th.—Procession of Women Suffragists from the Embankment to Albert Hall, organised by the Women's National Social and Political Union.

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