

organic harmony. All methods of attacking disease, whether by applications, medicines, operations or mechanical procedures of any kind, act as physical means of supporting and stimulating these natural powers of the body.

The scientific uses of psychotherapy cannot be properly understood until it is realised that treatment of this kind depends on the stimulation of just these same natural and inherent powers, only in this instance an endeavour is made to reach them through the medium of the mind instead of through the medium of the body. Dr. Ash gave numerous examples of physical and mental methods of treatments illustrating these points, emphasising the importance for a clear understanding of the subject, or realising that both ordinary methods of treatment and psychotherapeutic methods have thus a common basis of action.

The lecturer then drew attention to the necessity of finding a common law for the various processes of healing which were nowadays included under the term psychotherapy, and referred to such apparently widely differing systems as spiritual healing, psychic healing, healing in temples, shrines and wells, hypnotism, suggestion, mental suggestion, and Christian Science amongst other examples. Dr. Ash called attention to the work of the special sub-committee of the British Medical Association appointed three or four years ago to consider this matter, which concluded that all these systems of psychotherapeutic healing were dependent on the principle of suggestion.

In conclusion, Dr. Ash was careful to emphasise his opinion that the fact that we could formulate so useful a law as that of suggestion in explanation of all the various methods of mental healing referred to, in no way negatived the reasonableness of a distinction being drawn between certain well-defined types of cure by hypnotic and suggestive therapeutic procedures, and certain cures in which not only increased physical well-being but ethical consequences indicate the presence of a spiritual factor; so that whilst all psychotherapeutic procedures make use of suggestion as the vehicle of the healing agent, the latter may certainly on occasion have a spiritual as apart from a merely mental significance.

Queen Alexandra has appointed Lady Northcote as President of her Committee to raise funds for Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, to succeed Lady Minto, whose resignation Her Majesty deeply regrets. Mr. Harold Boulton, C.V.O., has been appointed hon. secretary of the Committee.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES.

A Meeting of the Grand Council of the above Society was held at the Offices, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on Thursday, March 12th. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the chair.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL NURSES' LEAGUE AFFILIATED.

The Minutes were read and confirmed, and various interesting letters having been read, the next business on the Agenda was:—To receive an application for affiliation from the Royal Free Hospital Nurses' League. It was proposed and seconded, and agreed to unanimously, that the League be affiliated. The President expressed the opinion that the co-operation of a new League composed of upwards of 160 thoroughly trained nurses would be a source of added strength to the National Council. The President, Miss Cox-Davies, would have by right of office an *ex officio* seat upon the Grand Council, and at an early date the delegates would be nominated by the League.

It was agreed to invite other Leagues and Associations of Nurses to join the National Council, and thus increase its influence for good.

WOMAN'S KINGDOM.

The President reported the invitation to the Council to organize the Nursing Section in the Woman's Kingdom of the Children's Welfare Exhibition, to be held at Olympia from April 11th to 30th next, which she had provisionally accepted. Several of those present agreed to help to organize the Section.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

A long conference was held concerning the plans for the Annual Conference and Nursing Exhibition of the National Council, to be held at Birmingham from June 9th to 12th next. Miss Musson reported progress up to date. The New Central Hall in Corporation Street had been secured, where there was ample room for the Exhibition and Meetings. It was agreed that four sessions should be held, and various subjects were decided upon for discussion. One session would be devoted to State Registration and Nursing Education, and the meeting learned with pleasure that Mr. H. Gilbert Barling, F.R.C.S., Vice-Chancellor of the University, would speak on registration from the point of view of the medical profession. The details of the arrangements were left to

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