

manufacturing or mining districts, and it was also observed that cases of venereal disease were disproportionately numerous in prisons receiving prisoners from seaport towns. Sir Herbert described the methods and precautions adopted with regard to cases of venereal diseases in prisons and stated that the conditions existing seemed to warrant the assertion that the danger of infection from venereal disease in prison was practically nil.

Sir Herbert stated that the results of his recent inquiry indicated that about half of those received into prisons suffering from venereal disease were still in an infectious condition when discharged. This problem might be attacked either by detention, notification, or by the provision of facilities for treatment subsequent to discharge. The first alternative Sir Herbert considered was of doubtful expediency, and he was of opinion that any form of notification other than that which was made applicable to the whole community would be inadvisable; the idea of a prisoner being specially penalised or of his sentence being enhanced on account of venereal disease would, he thought, be strenuously resisted. He was not in favour of venereal disease being made notifiable generally throughout the community. The provision of facilities for treatment seemed to Sir Herbert to offer a more hopeful solution of the difficulty. It was necessary, he thought, that means should be provided throughout the country for treatment of venereal disease free of cost, readily accessible, and with attendance permissible in the evening so as not to interfere with the daily work of the patient. As far as possible these centres should be at general hospitals and dispensaries rather than at special hospitals or centres solely for the treatment of venereal diseases. If such centres were organised it would enable a prison doctor to give a discharged prisoner a ticket, the presentation of which at a centre would secure the patient a continuance of treatment. The fact of the patient being recently discharged from prison should be a confidential matter and should be made known at the treatment centre to as few persons as possible.

With regard to convict prisons, Sir Herbert stated that the results of some investigations he had made showed that out of 1,755 male convicts in certain prisons 299, or 17 per cent., showed signs of having had syphilis.

Of 941 inmates examined at Borstal Institution, 153, or 16 per cent., gave evidence of congenital syphilis.

On May 6th, by the kind invitation of Miss Sparks, a meeting of the Yeovil Branch of the National Union of Trained Nurses was held at Bincombe House, Crewkerne, and was well attended by both professional and lay members, who much appreciated the interesting lecture given by Miss Symonds on "The Power of Thought," which caused a discussion during teatime, after which members thoroughly enjoyed walking in the lovely garden or playing outdoor games.

## FROM A NURSE'S DIARY IN THE ISLAND OF MAJORCA.

One morning we started quite early to walk along what we called the "Shell Beach" to Republicanos, a village about four miles from Coll, which is about five miles from Palma. In the chilly morning air the walk was delightful, and most of the shells beautiful. The beach consists of a solid mass of shells and the broken shells would make splendid garden paths. When we arrived at the village we walked up through fir woods and rocks and then sat on the edge of some rock overlooking a disused quarry near the sea which has rather the appearance of old Roman Baths. What a glorious view we had—the blue Mediterranean, the hills, Palma and an extensive view of the island, as well as a view of the island of Camorra, which is only inhabited by a few fishermen and their families and they are supplied with provisions by a steamer which visits there once a week. After a long rest we walked down to the inn for lunch where we were warmly greeted and where a real Mallorquin lunch awaited us, of native soup, fish rissoles, chicken, fried sweet potatoes, the latter taste a little like chestnuts, coffee, dessert, quince jelly and rum liqueur.

Another most enjoyable visit was to Manorca, the third town in importance in the Island, from there at 4.30 a.m. the next morning, we drove about ten miles to the cave of Arta. It took us two hours to see the cave and we saw all sorts of hobgoblins from Mephistopheles, an owl, a dead pig, a pulpit, Hell, Purgatory and Glory to the most beautiful basaltic columns. We all felt most grieved that this most beautiful cave should be blackened by the burning of fireworks for scenic effects. We arrived at Manorca again in time to catch the train for the second most important town in Mallorca, Inca. Next morning we started off as seven o'clock for a twenty mile drive to Lluch. The drive was most beautiful and soon after we left the village of Caimari we began to mount and mount a winding road until we were between 2,000 or 3,000 feet above sea level. The land all the way up was utilised for the growing of olive trees and vines. When we arrived at Lluch we expected to find a village, but we just found a monastery, one part of which is comparatively new and consists of accommodation for pilgrims who visit the place every summer to worship "Our Lady of Lluch," such visits being made with the object of obtaining cures for themselves or their relatives, and of course there is the usual display of presents to the shrine as those seen in such quantity at Lourdes. On our way in the very slow train from Palma, of which there are only two in the 24 hours, we noticed the grotesque looking olive trees. They were of the most fantastic and diabolical shapes and we were not surprised to hear that Doré stayed some months in the Island in order to get examples of the gruesome looking trees for his pictures of the Inferno.

JANE FAWCETT.

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