

essential to them was available. Her remark that she would like to see more of these Hostels and less Government Offices established, met with applause; she could not easily forget the look in the eyes of those men, it showed the border line between sanity and insanity. "Is it possible to do too much, is it possible to do *enough* for our afflicted brothers?" concluded the speaker.

Dr. Waite, M.A., M.R.C.P., Hon. Secretary, in giving a brief sketch of the scheme, laid stress upon the fact that up to the present time nothing had been done for the men and N.C.O.'s of H.M. Services. (N.B.—Lord Knutsford's scheme benefits officers only.)

In this connection, and in order to increase popular interest in the scheme, Dr. Waite reminded the audience that, in July, 1914, a scheme was promoted by a few influential people, which had for its object the early treatment of mental cases with a view to the *prevention* of insanity. For this purpose a deputation waited on Mr. Herbert Samuel, then President of the Local Government Board, who laid their plan before him. We quote the exact words of Sir John Jardine, M.P., who introduced the deputation, as they bear significantly on the present scheme: "We, the undersigned, desire to advocate the provision of greater facilities for the treatment of *incipient mental cases without certification*. The strong popular prejudice, the loss of liberty, and the atmosphere of certified asylums combine to deter patients and their friends from seeking *early* and efficient treatment. We consequently recommend that certification should be restricted to those cases in which, from the serious nature of the malady, it has become necessary; and that incipient cases should have more opportunity of temporary *preventive* treatment in "reception homes," observation wards of Poor Law Infirmaries, or the wards of general or special hospitals." The italics are ours. This recommendation, Dr. Waite explained, had been endorsed by 300 Members of Parliament, 236 members of the medical profession, besides 45 members of the municipality of Birmingham. The war put a stop to further progress of the scheme, but the war has also emphasised the urgent need for it. The Recuperative Hostels scheme has given a fresh turn to the situation, and is to some extent the practical response worked out by circumstances.

Dr. Waite explained that at the present moment we had arrived at this point: The first Hostel at Hampstead with accommodation for about 50 men, including also members of the Mercantile Marine, is almost ready for occupation. This will be the "Clearing-House." The speaker laid special stress upon the fact that *excellent food* will be an important part of the treatment. From this Hostel the patients, when sufficiently recovered, will be sent to "Marshall's Park," at Romford, 12 miles from London, most generously offered rent free for 3 years by Mrs. McIntosh, the owner. This is Hostel No. II. This estate provides facilities for dairy farming. There are 45 acres of ground, 16 cows, hay crop, piggeries, &c., &c.

Hostel No. III will afford accommodation for 100 men, and facilities for farming in general, on 300 acres of land. Other interesting speakers were Dr. Susan White, specialist in nerve cases, and who has taken a prominent part in the proposed reform alluded to; Major-General Sir Ivor Herbert, Bart., M.P., C.M.G.; Major-General Sir Reginald Talbot, K.C.B.; and Dr. Mackintosh, Chairman of the House Committee. One of the principal features of the "Clearing-House" at Hampstead will be a room specially equipped with the most modern appliances for the treatment of massage, electricity, and so forth. Many eminent men have kindly promised to give their services, and form the medical staff of the "Clearing-House."

The meeting terminated with a very cordial vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding.

B. K.

THE SECRET AGREEMENT.

AN AMAZING CORRESPONDENCE.

The members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, will, we feel sure, realise when they read the following correspondence, how deeply indebted they are to Miss H. Hawkins for inviting publicity on the "private agreement," alluded to by Mr. Herbert Paterson, the Med. Hon. Secretary at the Special General Meeting, on January 18th last, entered into by him on behalf of the Association (instructed by the President, Princess Christian), with Mr. Stanley and Sir Cooper Perry, Hon. Officers of the College of Nursing, Ltd.

Although refusing information as to the nature of the "agreement" to Miss Hawkins, with its usual contempt for the rights of its nurse members the Executive Committee has realised the wisdom of publishing the correspondence before being requested to do so by the Privy Council, which does not permit a Royal Charter to be treated like a "scrap of paper."

The following letters were sent by Mr. Herbert Paterson for publication, last week to the *Weekly Irish Times*, to which paper Miss H. Hawkins had sent the correspondence between her and the R.B.N.A. and the College of Nursing, Ltd.

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION AND THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

SIR,—At the Special General Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, held on January 18th last, I referred to correspondence which had passed between the Hon. Arthur Stanley and myself with regard to certain conditions incidental to the proposed amalgamation of the Royal British Nurses' Association and the College of Nursing, Ltd. In certain quarters this correspondence appears to be regarded as a deep laid scheme for depriving the nursing profession of some cherished birthright, and has been referred to as a "secret pact." As a matter of fact, there has been no secrecy at all. At the Special General Meeting I referred to every point in the corres-

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