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## EDITORIAL.

### A UNIQUE ENTERPRISE.

The treatment of functional nervous disorders is a subject surrounded with difficulty not only to the medical practitioner under whose care they are brought in his daily practice, but also to the patient and his relatives. The costliness of efficient nursing makes the problem of due provision for the care of such cases, which are usually of long duration, almost insoluble except for the wealthy.

Sir Ernest Cassel will, therefore, earn the gratitude of many for having realised the pressing need for further provision for the treatment of functional nervous disorders, and by the announcement that he has devoted no less a sum than £225,000 to the object of endowing a Hospital for the treatment of functional nervous disorders, *i.e.*, those common, but complex, and distressing conditions—which are not the direct outcome of organic disease—such as neurasthenia, nervous break-down, loss of power not associated with structural changes, together with those manifold kindred troubles which are loosely termed nervous. To say that a condition is merely due to “nerves” has been almost equivalent to saying that it calls for nothing beyond rest and change. These disorders are, however, it is claimed by the promoters of the present enterprise, amenable to medical treatment under favourable conditions, and it is to provide such means of cure, and further to expand and elaborate them, that the present institution has been founded. It is a unique enterprise, which cannot fail to advance an important branch of medicine, and be of infinite service to subjects of a distressing form of disease.

The information which has reached us refers to a “new medical enterprise.” This is funda-

mentally true. But it is equally true, as pointed out by Dr. Goodall at the Nursing Conference, convened by the General Nursing Council last week, that the Medical and Nursing Professions are so closely linked together that one cannot function efficiently without the other; and in no branch of treatment is this more true than in that dealing with patients suffering from nervous break-down, in which the medical practitioner in charge of the case depends so much on the skill, the discretion, and the personality of the nurse or nurses continuously with the patient.

Sir Ernest Cassel has selected for his enterprise a fine mansion and park in ideal surroundings at Penshurst. It will accommodate sixty patients, and is intended primarily for those members of the educated classes who are unable to meet the heavy expenses associated with care and treatment in a nursing home. The upkeep of the institution, and the treatment of the patients, have been largely provided by the generosity of the Founder, but a charge will be made to each patient as a contribution to his or her maintenance.

Their Majesties the King and Queen have consented to become the Patron and Patroness of the hospital. There are strong General and Medical Committees, and the Medical Director, Dr. T. A. Ross, has had a wide experience of diseases of the nervous system.

Most trained nurses realise how necessary experience in the care of such patients is to them, and how difficult it is to secure. We hope that the new hospital will provide opportunities for such experience. We feel sure that many nurses would gladly avail themselves of it.

The hospital will be ready for the reception of patients on May 23rd. Application should be made to the Medical Director, Cassel Hospital, Swaylands, Penshurst, Kent.

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