

omission and of bridging the hiatus which exists between the two branches of nursing.

Dr. Graves presented three questions for the consideration of his audience.

(1) *Why has a fully-trained Nurse no knowledge of Mental Diseases?*

Because the realisation that a disordered mind is a condition of illness is a product of modern times. All mental disorders are not insanity. It was not until the beginning of the nineteenth century that the physiological conception of insanity was accepted, and the study of the anatomy and physiology of the brain areas, and the allocations of the various functions.

(2) *Is the knowledge of Mental Diseases desirable in General Training?*

Owing to the extended scope of nursing, yes. Gynaecology and Psychology are closely related and insanity may occur at any time during pregnancy. A knowledge of Mental Diseases would be of incalculable value to nurses in Private Practice.

(3) *How can the Knowledge be obtained?*

Three months of a General Training should be allocated to mental work. The ideal is a Clinic for Nervous Diseases with an In-patient and Out-patient Department, under the auspices of a general hospital where incipient mental cases can obtain treatment.

Finally, Dr. Graves divided mental patients into two classes:—

(1) *Imbeciles*: Patients who had never possessed a mind.

(2) *Patients suffering from Dementia*. Primarily they had possessed a mind, but their intelligence had decayed. The lecturer quoted at considerable length from Dr. Bernard Hart's "Psychology of the Insane."

G. M. E. JONES,
Hon. Press Sec.

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL AND MENTAL NURSING.

Dr. Graves, in his lecture advocating that some knowledge of mental nursing should be included in the three years' term of training for registration on the General Register—which, he said, had been assigned no position—has apparently overlooked the fact that the General Nursing Council for England and Wales has under discussion Alternative and Reciprocal Curricula to qualify for the General Register and that no doubt training in Mental Nursing will be included in one of these schemes. We cannot think that it would be possible to include training of any value in psychological nursing in a three years' term, or that six months' experience would be of real value to either nurse or patient. Reciprocal curricula will surely require a four years' term of training. The Council has appointed a Standing Mental Nursing Committee which will keep the advancement of Mental Nursing well to the fore.

THE PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

A short lecture on "Public Speaking" will be given by Mrs. K. Atherton Earp, to the members of the Public Health Section of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses, at the monthly meeting, to be held on Friday, the 27th inst., at 6 p.m., at Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W.1.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

A Members' meeting of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses will be held at the "Plane Tree" Restaurant, 106, Great Russell Street, Tottenham Court Road, London, W.C.1, on Wednesday, May 25th, at 5.15 p.m. Business at 5.30 p.m. (admission by Membership card), to be followed by a whist drive.

It will be of great assistance if Members inform the General Secretary as to their intention of being present, and tea can be ordered for those who desire it, if notice is received two days previously.

MAUDE MACCALLUM,
Hon. General Secretary.

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

The Minister of Health has received a deputation of members of the British Medical Association concerning the admission of paying patients into Poor Law infirmaries. The deputation urged that in cases where paying patients are admitted to Poor Law infirmaries the local medical profession should be consulted, and that the cases should only be accepted on the recommendation of the practitioner attending them. It was pointed out that the lower middle-classes could not afford the fees of the private nursing homes, some of which were closing down.

Sir Alfred Mond promised to give careful consideration to the points raised by the deputation, but pointed out that there were certain difficulties to which he was not prepared to give an immediate reply.

The National Deposit Friendly Society has set other large friendly societies a good example. It is about to allocate one-third of its disposable surplus, under the National Insurance Act, accumulated during a period of five years, to hospitals and nursing organisations. This amount will total £127,000.

It is sad news that the London Hospital and King's College Hospital have shut down 200 beds, and St. Thomas' 100.

Leading friendly societies have been meeting the hospital authorities, and show their willingness to assist, but that means future help, whereas the June quarter expenses are now coming along, and many of the hospitals have not the money to meet them.

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