

This opinion was warmly challenged by the Chairman of the Day Nurseries Association.

Mrs. H. B. Irving also objected to the idea that milk allowance was needed for the expectant mother. People had the idea that it went in milk and came out milk. What the expectant mother really required was chops.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

A Quarterly Meeting of the Matrons' Council was held at Claybury Mental Hospital (L.C.C.), Woodford Bridge, Essex, on Saturday, October 22nd, on the invitation of Miss Helen Lamb, the Matron, and by the kind permission of the Visiting Committee. Many members availed themselves of this excellent opportunity of seeing and learning something of this well-known Institution, situated in many acres of well-kept grounds; an ideal spot for the most unfortunate class of patients. In the absence of Dr. Barham (Superintendent), Dr. Petrie (Assistant Superintendent) kindly escorted the party round some of the Hospital Departments.

The size of the Institution can be imagined from the fact that it shelters 1,068 men, 1,477 women, 245 female nurses, and a large number of male nurses, besides the staff. When viewing the magnificent kitchens with their vast equipment, we were informed that food was cooked in them for 2,800 persons.

The Wards opened off long, wide, airy corridors. The window space and airiness everywhere was noticeable. Various forms of insanity were seen. The melancholy, the cheerful and those suffering from general paralysis of the insane, all looked admirably cared for, and as happy as such pitiable human mental wrecks can look. What struck the visitors very much was the appearance of the nurses, both male and female—their smart neatness, the impression they gave of good training and efficiency, the kind, patient and good tempered faces everywhere. That the work must be a strain upon them goes without saying. Dr. Petrie explained that the new comers—those where there is a hope of recovery—are kept apart from the chronics. The initial treatment for these is rest and an abundance of fresh air; they are, therefore, kept in bed in an open verandah for some days.

Amusement forms an important part of the treatment, and for this purpose a very large and magnificent hall is provided, with a stage for theatrical performances.

The Arms of all the Metropolitan Boroughs whose rates support the Institution are placed all round the hall.

After the very interesting inspection the business meeting took place in the Senior Nurses' Club Room. The chair was taken by Miss Heather-Bigg, R.R.C., the President. In her opening re-

marks she thanked Miss Lamb, on behalf of the Council, for her kind invitation and for the opportunity of viewing the hospital. It was well known, she said, that Claybury held a high position as an Asylum; much important Research Work was carried on there, and she considered that nursing the insane under such auspices was a very important field of work for women; she congratulated Miss Lamb upon the appearance of her Nurses, remarking that what we had seen testified to her excellent administrative work. Miss Lamb was requested to convey the thanks of the Council to the Superintendent for the kind permission to visit the institution so greatly appreciated.

The Hon. Secretary then read the minutes of the last meeting, which were confirmed. The absence of Mrs. Fenwick and Miss Breay was regretted. Many letters of regret had been received from members who were unable to be present; among them was one from Miss Purvis, Superintendent of the Middlesbrough District Nursing Association, who wrote: "All trained Nurses in Middlesbrough are indignant with the Ministry of Labour for compelling them to come under the Unemployment Insurance Act, and a protest is being sent to the Ministry condemning the policy." Another letter was read from Lord Robert Cecil asking for the co-operation of the Matrons' Council in a big Women's Demonstration which the League of Nations Union is arranging for Armistice night. It was proposed by Miss Villiers, seconded by Miss Ross, and carried, that the request be acceded to, and that Miss Heather-Bigg, Miss Georgina Lord and Miss Anderson Parsons represent the Council at the meeting.

The Hon. Secretary made the gratifying announcement that Miss Villiers had been elected a Member of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland.

Applications for membership were then considered and the applicants elected.

At the termination of the meeting a very dainty and generous tea was served to the members in the Junior Nurses' Club Room—a very large and beautifully furnished apartment. This, in addition to a cup of most refreshing tea upon arrival, after our "long journey." Could hospitality go further! So ended a very enjoyable afternoon.

ANNIE E. HULMF,

Hon. Secretary.

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SHEFFIELD CENTRE.

The attention of members of the Sheffield Local Centre of the College of Nursing, Ltd., is drawn to the Scholarship offered of the value of £60, for which members of the centre only are eligible. Further particulars will be found in our advertisement columns. The Committee hope to receive many applications.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)