

**MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.****CONVALESCENT FUND FOR MENTAL NURSES.**

The object of the Fund is to assist Mental Nurses in obtaining necessary rest and change at health resorts during convalescence from illness.

All Mental Nurses, male or female, actually engaged in the practice of their profession, whether in mental hospitals, institutions for mental defectives, or in private nursing, are eligible for grants from the Fund, usually £3, for a fortnight's expenses.

Applications for grants should be made personally in writing to the General Secretary, M.P.A., 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., or to Dr. J. F. Powell, Mental Hospital, Caterham, Surrey, enclosing a medical certificate (made out on the official form, copies of which can be obtained from the General Secretary, or from Dr. J. F. Powell), signed by the Medical Superintendent or other medical officer in charge; or, in the case of private nurses of the insane or mental defectives, by the medical practitioner who has been in attendance.

The Treasurer of the Association will be empowered to draw cheques on the Fund for the amount of grants which may be decided upon by the Committee, or by the member of the Committee appointed to receive applications for grants.

**FEMALE ATTENDANTS.**

In evidence before the Committee on the Administration of Mental Hospitals, Dr. Peachill, Superintendent of an asylum in Dorset, said that he found great difficulty in attracting and retaining the right type. Female attendants were not giving such conscientious work as they did before the war.

Also it was stated young attendants would not attend scientific lectures—they preferred the cinema. We hear of one Mental Hospital where twelve well-educated Danish girls are in training.

**A SAD FATALITY.**

The sad story of a young probationer's frenzied rush through the corridor of Romford Cottage Hospital with her clothing alight was told at an inquest at Romford on Saturday last, on Elsie Goodchild, 18.

A housemaid said that while the girl was standing in front of the fire in the dining room, her clothes caught alight. She threw her burning apron at witness and then dashed down the corridor.

The matron said she heard screams and saw Nurse Goodchild afire in the corridor. She secured blankets, but the nurse ran away. Witness caught her, and put the fire out, and every attention was given her by the medical staff.

The coroner said he was satisfied everything possible was done, but at the request of the father adjourned the inquiry that he might be legally represented.

**THE HOSPITAL WORLD.**

The first move in the great combined appeal for the united voluntary hospitals of Greater London, more than 100 in number, is to be taken on Easter Tuesday, when some 950 banks, inclusive of head offices and branches, will open donation accounts. The banks will themselves issue official receipts on behalf of the Trustees and Treasurers. The launching of the appeal, with which H.R.H. the Prince of Wales is identified as President of the Council of the King's Fund, will thus afford the opportunity for its support by Easter offerings.

Speaking at the Annual Council of Governors of the Royal Northern Hospital, Holloway, on Tuesday, March 28th, Mr. Stuart de la Rue (Chairman of the Finance Committee) said that at one time they had great hopes they would get a considerable proportion of the surplus of £8,000,000 which was in the hands of the Approved Societies, and it was only perfectly fair that the hospitals should have a substantial part of that surplus because it really was only created and obtained for the Approved Societies very largely by the work that was done for their people by the hospitals. The hospitals keep their people well, and in the meantime the Approved Societies retained the money. Their hopes had not been realised, and the total amount received last year was four guineas, which did not seem much out of eight millions. Again, they had what might be termed a grievance against the Approved Societies because they had undertaken now in certain cases to pay a guinea per week when their people were admitted to hospital. That sounded very nice so far as it went, but they had attached to it this condition, that they would only give that guinea providing the patient himself contributed nothing, and as the cost was over four pounds and as a great many patients could pay more than one guinea, it was not entirely an asset.

As the Chairman of the Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society we cannot consider it fair of hospitals to commandeer our savings, secured from untiring work and good management. At the same time, we have every sympathy with the hospitals. A guinea a week goes no way to cover cost of in-patients, and should be considerably increased by those Societies which profess to pay for their members. We believe in a comprehensive system of Sick Insurance for all classes who use public hospitals, and this will come when hospitals managers co-operate.

Colonel Bingham Mildmay, M.P., presiding at a meeting at Middlesex Hospital, said the accounts had been adversely affected by the determination of the hospital to improve the hours of work and the rates of pay of the nursing staff and to return to pre-war dietary.

The beds of the Middlesex Hospital had been very fully occupied during the year, and it was

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