

Colonel Simpson, C.B.E., M.D., Medical Superintendent Winwick Mental Hospital.

E. C. Graves, Esq., B.Sc., B.S., F.R.C.S., M.D., Medical Superintendent of the Birmingham City Hospital.

Miss A. L. Williams, Matron City of London Mental Hospital.

Mr. H. Howes, Chief Male Nurse, Tooting Bec Mental Hospital.

Charles Fitch, Esq., Secretary of the Mental Hospitals Association.

*Committee Members.*

Dr. Bedford Pierce. Miss Seymour Yapp.

Dr. Goodall. Mr. Christian.

Miss Dowbiggin.

*Introductory Remarks.*

The Chairman, Dr. Bedford Pierce, after welcoming the representatives, pointed out that, as the Syllabus had not yet received the approval of the General Nursing Council or of the Minister of Health, there would be time to make any alterations which might be found to be necessary, and the Council would welcome observations and suggestions. Dr. Graves, speaking on behalf of his colleagues, said that they enthusiastically approved of the Syllabus, but he wished to draw attention to certain difficulties which had occurred to him in connection with the training of Mental Nurses under the conditions laid down by the Council. He would suggest an examination at the end of each year, instead of one only at the end of the course as apparently proposed by the Council. The Chairman explained that the Council was in full sympathy with this, but that at present there were difficulties in organising these additional examinations, amongst which are the question of expense and the extra work it would involve.

Dr. Graves then raised two important questions which the Chairman said should have careful consideration. One was the legal standing of a nurse and the limits of her responsibility in relation to her work. The second was the division of a Mental Hospital into sections so that the training should be comprehensive. It was suggested that on page 8 of the Schedule the note at the top should specify which departments of the hospital should be deemed essential for training.

Several other points were raised, which the Chairman explained had already received consideration by the Committee.

The Schedule of training was carefully considered, and approved with one exception—the addition of the words "Continuous Warm Baths" on page 4 of the Schedule.

Mr. Fitch suggested that some help might be obtained towards the expense of examinations from local authorities, if the Minister of Health approved, and that a recommendation might be sent to the Board of Education on the subject of Preliminary Training Schools.

Mr. Christian referred to the present system of examining the candidates, and the Conference

generally agreed that it was desirable that examinations should be conducted by outside examiners.

There was some discussion about the lack of education of many of the probationers, and it was explained that the Syllabus was intended to be within the capacity of the woman with an elementary education. There was general agreement as to the desirability of preliminary schools for those about to become probationers.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for their helpful attitude, and Mr. Fitch, speaking for his Association, said that the members of that Association would do their utmost to raise the standard of Mental Nursing in England.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

VISITORS PRESENT.

*Representatives of Hospitals for Mental Defectives:—*

Dr. W. H. Coupland, Medical Superintendent, Royal Albert Institution, Lancaster.

Dr. E. A. Sherlock, Medical Superintendent, Darenth Training Colony, Dartford, Kent.

Dr. F. Douglas Turner, M.B., Medical Superintendent, Royal Eastern Counties Institution, Colchester.

*Not able to be present:—*

Dr. Rees Thomas, Medical Superintendent, Rampton State Institution, Retford.

Dr. S. Caldecott, Medical Superintendent, Royal Earlswood Institution, Redhill, Surrey.

Dr. F. A. Gill, Medical Superintendent, Calderstones, Whalley, Blackburn.

The Chairman said that he was particularly glad to meet these gentlemen, as no one on the Council had any experience of their special work, and their advice would be most valuable. The Syllabus was gone through carefully, and it was decided to eliminate altogether Section X, as not being suitable for the training of nurses for mental defectives; in this way reverting to the regulations of the Medico-Psychological Association for the training of nurses for mental defectives. A few minor alterations were proposed in the other sections.

Dr. Sherlock referred to the difficulty which might arise if hospitals decided that their nurses could not work through the Syllabus and continued to grant their own certificate. He also spoke of the old-established officers who were not able to pass the examination of the M.P.A., and asked what their position would be. The Chairman assured him that all bona fide nurses would be accepted for registration if they had had three years' experience prior to November, 1919, in an Institution approved by the Council.

Discussion.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK pointed out that the recommendation that the Medico-Psychological Association certificate should be accepted for three years after the State Examination was in force, made it possible for it to hold examinations concurrently with the Council for one year. She proposed to insert the words "obtained prior to

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