

Unconscious wishes are usually those of early childhood, and the secret of regression is once more to become a child, and be able to gain them. Shock is also a form of regression, but one so rapid that the psyche is totally unable to keep pace with it. In its most serious forms it involves loss of consciousness from which the patient does not recover, but passes on to the deepest state of regression, that is death. The classical rules for treating profound shock are practically those which we would apply to the very feeble newly born.

In this state of regression, when we go back to our childhood, and its desires, we find a tendency to put those persons in our immediate vicinity into the place of those with whom we used to be intimately connected in our early years; doctor and nurse become respectively father and mother, similar behaviour is expected from them and a corresponding attitude adopted towards them, the patient repeating his or her early reactions of love or hate, obedience or defiance where they are concerned. Neither should we lose sight of the fact that the nurse is also capable of making similar transferences, as they are called, because she is also equipped with an unconscious as well as her patients, and it is quite capable of playing awkward tricks upon her when she least expects it.

These transferences, are an important factor in the illness and recovery. In many cases, if over-strong and not properly understood and managed, they may prolong an illness, because the attention and sympathy of the nurse becomes indispensable, but it often serves as the towing-line that finally brings the patient safely into the harbour of health. The patient who has no one upon whom to hold fast, who has no interest, and cares not whether he live or die, quickly slips through our fingers.

Convalescence, as we mentioned before, is the reverse process to falling ill. It represents a gradual growing-up to a state of independence, and once more facing the responsibilities and burdens of life. This factor accounts for the condition of relapse that is so often to be observed in the convalescent patient, or even the sudden death that occasionally intervenes before the patient is expected to be moved home for the end of convalescence.

What steps, we may ask, ought a nurse to take when this knowledge is at her command? The best advice to her is, "Keep the facts to yourself and act upon your knowledge, do not forget it for an instant." Nurses ought, of necessity, to be good actresses, for they constantly have much to hide from their patients. Everyone should be treated as though grown-up, although one knows perfectly well they are feeling and behaving, although not in the least conscious of it, as if they were but a few years old. The reason why we so frequently find patients difficult or irritating is because we are expecting them to behave as though they were well. The sick person is bound to be irrational, and we should keep that in mind. It is not often that we can benefit a patient directly by passing on any of this information; the condition is so intimate that he or she would be blind to it, and so would only run away from it. It would be as useful as a perusal of the notes on the bed-board. We know, and we can act upon our knowledge with understanding and sympathy, that is enough; but in addition we can use our knowledge to find out something about ourselves, but this is more difficult, although all the more valuable, because so many of our problems that we find in the attitude of our patients are but the reflection of difficulties in ourselves.

A new extension was opened on January 23rd to the Babies' Hospital and Nurses Home at Hoylake. The aim of the Committee is to train girls as children's nurses under ideal conditions. A careful study of child psychology is included in the curriculum of training.

## NURSING ECHOES.

The Matron-in-Chief, Territorial Army Nursing Service, asks us to give prominence to her request that all members of the T.A.N.S. who have not already done so, will now send in their enrolment parchments to their principal matrons, in order that they may be initialled, in accordance with paragraph 4 of instructions on the parchment.

No less than six past Matrons of Guy's Hospital attended the service at Southwark Cathedral on January 6th in celebration of the bi-centenary of the opening of the hospital—Miss Victoria Jones, Mrs. Manning, Miss Esther H. Young, Miss F. C. Nott-Bower, Dame Sarah Swift, R.R.C., and Miss I. V. Haughton, R.R.C.

The members of the nursing staff of the hospital made a notable picture as they walked in procession to the Cathedral. Not a pin seemed awry, and their caps were immaculate, and worn just as they should be. But, then, they have notable examples of neatness in the present Matron, Miss Margaret Hogg, R.R.C., C.B.E., and Miss Haughton, to go no further back.

We have pleasure in publishing in this issue the first of a course of lectures delivered by Miss Mary Chadwick, Member of the British Psychological and International Psycho-analytical Societies, at 6, Guilford Place, Russell Square, W.C.1. Others will follow, and will, we feel sure, be of interest both to those who heard the lectures, and also to that larger circle who did not do so, but who realise the importance and interest of the subjects with which they deal. Psychology has been too long overlooked in the education of the nurse, as a most important factor in her success.

We hope to publish next month an extremely interesting illustrated article by Councillor Beatrice Kent, S.R.N., entitled "The Transfiguration of a Prison Cell, and Something Else," an account of a visit paid by her to the cell occupied by Edith Cavell in the prison of St. Gilles in Brussels, which is kept perpetually supplied with flowers by the offerings of visitors. We regret that great pressure on our space does not permit us to print the article in this issue.

We are glad to note that Dr. A. G. Connell, Medical Superintendent of the Norfolk County Mental Hospital at Thorpe, who recently gave evidence before the Royal Commission on Lunacy Law and Administration and Mental Disorders, protested against patients in mental hospitals being described as paupers, and also gave an instance in his own experience of the good effects that would result from asylums being used as mental hospitals without certification. He told of a woman suffering from melancholia, who failed to gain entrance to an asylum. Finally she walked into the sea and was then taken to an asylum. Dr. Connell contended that it was very deplorable for persons to be compelled to attempt suicide before they can receive treatment at a mental hospital.

The death of a girl of sixteen who attended a fancy dress dance at a hospital in the suburbs of London, dressed as Father Christmas, owing to her dress catching

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