

Prayer, concluding with the Benediction: "May the blessing of God rest on this place, and on all those who work herein, henceforth and for evermore."

VOTES OF THANKS.

Lord Cornwallis then expressed the gratitude of the Local Authorities to the Princess for her presence there, and the hope that she would be impressed by the value of the provision made for the tuition and well being of the nursing staff, which they desired should be equal to that found in other forms of hospitals and training schools, and so remove the ancient prejudice against this branch of the profession. They looked for their reward in a continuance of that devoted service which they always received from their staff, who had been eager to seize the opportunities of better training. They welcomed the presence of Sir Frederick Willis and others as evidence of the sympathy and encouragement of the Department in securing that all nurses should be fully equipped for their delicate task, which requires intelligence, initiative and judgment of the highest order, and the power to apply their knowledge to the individuality of each patient—no easy task. He concluded by respectfully tendering their most sincere thanks.

Sir Henry Lennard, seconding, said that on behalf of the Committee of Visitors and the whole staff of the Mental Hospital, he also wished to tender their grateful thanks to the Princess for coming down to open their Nurses' Hostel. His Committee had long realised the necessity of mental nurses being as highly trained as possible, and also wished that as many as possible should have the general training of a hospital nurse as well. No one could doubt that if the physical needs of the patients were well attended to this must have a very beneficial effect on the more complex diseases of the brain. The Medical Superintendent and the Matron had been most anxious for a long time for this result, and that day was a red-letter day for them in the real commencement of the policy which they had so long advocated, and the greatest credit was due to them. "We hope," said Sir Henry, "that we shall have the assistance, not only of Matrons of Hospitals, but also of those who are now teaching the younger generation to show that a new career is opening for those who sincerely wish to help their fellow creatures and perform a duty which will bring the greatest happiness in its wake; the knowledge that they are assisting to cure one of the most painful forms of disease to which humanity is liable.

Further presentations having been made, the Princess inspected the remainder of the Home, and then crossing the road proceeded to the Hospital, and visited a portion of the great building, including the admission, and acute and convalescent wards, both male and female, expressing great interest in what she saw, and asking many questions.

The admission wards, which are in the older part of the building, are charming, light and airy, with large windows open at the top, through which may be seen green creepers, trees, and flowers. The general impression is one of restfulness and peace which must be most grateful to the tired and tortured brains of those admitted there.

These wards are in charge of Sister Bridie Copeland, S.R.N., who has recently been decorated by the King with the M.B.E., and who was presented to the Princess. Sister Copeland entered the service of the hospital as a probationer in 1915, obtained the Nursing Certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association in 1918 and became a Staff Nurse. In 1926, after obtaining the three years' certificate of King's College Hospital, London, and passing the State Examination, she returned to Maidstone Mental Hospital in August, 1926, as Sister-in-Charge of the Female Admission Wards, where she is regarded as a pioneer, as she sacrificed an assured position as a Staff Nurse so that she might qualify herself in general nursing, and thus be able

to teach to others the methods of nursing followed in a large London hospital.

Leading out of the Day Rooms are single rooms where convalescent patients or those whom it is advisable to isolate can be accommodated. In connection with the acute wards are bathrooms for prolonged baths which, we are told, have usually a much greater sedative effect on excited patients than drugs. There are also outside solaria for the treatment of recent cases.

On leaving this building the Princess passed through a guard of honour, composed of male nurses under the direction of the Head Male Nurse, Mr. William A. Bradford, and Mr. Brooker, and inspected the Chapel where the Chaplain, the Rev. A. S. Farnfield, pointed out its various features. The Princess particularly admired the beautiful wood carving, a labour of love on the part of a patient, which took many years to execute.

Before leaving, Her Royal Highness took tea in the new Home, and expressed admiration for its arrangements.

What especially pleased the representative of this JOURNAL was the admirable provision made for the instruction of the nurses under the direction of the Sister Tutor, Miss C. A. Ruark, S.R.N. As is known, both Dr. Wolseley Lewis, the Medical Superintendent, and the Matron, Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., a member of the Council of the British College of Nurses, are keenly interested in the education of Mental Nurses, and the building of the new Home afforded an opportunity for making ideal arrangements.

The lecture room, appropriately fitted with desks and appliances for teaching purposes, should stimulate study, and hanging on the wall we noticed the following address to the Nursing Staff by the Matron.

I congratulate you upon the profession you have chosen, which is of a high vocational order, and more especially the branch you have selected, carrying with it large opportunities of service and not a little self-sacrifice, and requiring great qualities of heart and head.

In the course of your training you will be called upon to exercise patience, tact, skill, cheerfulness, gentleness and, above all, sympathy. When dealing with your patients, bear in mind at all times, and under trying circumstances, that they are not responsible for what they say or do, realising that they are sick persons, requiring your skilled nursing, care and sympathy.

Do not ever raise your voice under any provocation; training in this particular branch of nursing is an asset in the formation of character, it teaches you to exercise self-control, quick observation, and will enable you to say and do the right thing at the right time. There is no calling which gives greater scope for service, nor which will give you more joy and satisfaction than a life spent in the service of others.

Keep these lofty ideals before you always and qualify yourselves for this highest of all callings—namely, in ministering to the sick and suffering in your midst, whether of mind or body. It is also national in character, and it is your duty as citizens to see that they receive the skilled care due to them. You have a vocation full of interest and responsibility. I emphasise the latter because I believe that there cannot possibly be any real service rendered that does not entail responsibility and self-denial.

Uphold the high ideals of Mental Nursing and work in a spirit of love and fellowship. There is no form of illness more deserving of the best service you can give than that which deprives the man or woman of his or her reasoning powers.

To Mercy, Pity, Peace and Love,
All pray in their distress,
And to these virtues of delight
Return their thankfulness.

For Mercy has a human heart,
Pity, a human face,
And Love, the human form divine,
And Peace, the human dress.

June, 1927.

E. L. MACAULAY, Matron

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