

Lectures 14 and 15 : Nervous Disorders.

Fees for Fellows and Members, 10s. for the Course.

Fees for non-Members, 15s. for the Course.

This Syllabus is designed to prepare Nurses for the examination in Mental Nursing, including Psychology more advanced, for the Diploma in Mental Nursing, London University, but is open to all Nurses requiring instruction in Psychology.

Full particulars may be obtained from the Secretary. The British College of Nurses, 39, Portland Place, W.1.

May 24th. Monthly Meeting of Council. 2.15 p.m.

#### WHAT OUR FELLOWS ARE DOING.

##### All Saints Dispensary, Panvel.

Miss S. A. Round, F.B.C.N., writes from Panvel, Bombay Residency, India :

Panvel is a Taluka town 45 miles from Bombay. A Taluka town is the chief town of the district, and the place where all the business from the surrounding villages is done. The population of Panvel is about 12,000, but the district which is called Kolaba has a population of nearly 90,000. Some of the villages are very small, and tucked away in the jungle or by the side of the rivers. Only those who are prepared to go off the beaten track would ever suspect that villages were in such hidden away spots. It is in these villages that so many of India's millions live.

The Dispensary has been in existence for nearly twenty years. When it was first started a fairly large house was rented, and then when the work began to grow the present Dispensary was built. The writer of this article has been here nine years, and this is to give you some idea how the work has grown during that time. At first being new and Indians are rather suspicious of new people, only three or four patients turned up the first few days, and these asked where the other Sister had gone? On being told that she was going to work in Bombay, they took themselves off: then one or two rather more venturesome came back and as I did not know one word of Marathi which is the language spoken here, it all had to be done through an interpreter. Once or twice I found myself coming out with Serbian words; the language I had learnt while in the Balkans, during the war. Naturally, they looked at me in astonishment.

I had only been here a few weeks when I was fetched to see a woman who, the husband said, had high fever; my interpreter was away at the time, but I had learnt about a dozen words, amongst which was the word for water. On arrival at the house, which was very small, I found the poor mother well on in labour, and with such a temperature. What was I to do? I found a small lad of twelve, who understood a little English, and told him to sit outside the door, and I would tell him what to do. "Tell the husband to let me have some hot water quickly as the baby is coming now." The reply came back that it could not be born yet, as there were five more days, and then it would be the full moon. Needless to say, the baby arrived minus the water, even cold, but when it was a boy, the father was pleased, and gave me some hot water to bathe it in. The rest of the things I had to fetch from the Dispensary. Both mother and child did well. The work began to grow apace after this, and several mothers were persuaded to come to the Dispensary for their confinements. There was only one big room, so a nice space was curtained off, and made into a ward. This answered very well, until one day there were four maternity cases in, and over thirty out-patients waiting, it seemed as if the time had arrived when the place needed enlarging. Funds were collected, and a nice room was built for the out-patients, and this gives us a ward which will take ten beds

if necessary. We rarely have quite an empty ward in these days. Now the average daily attendance at the Dispensary is fifty.

Last year we had 5,661 in the out-patients, 88 were attended in their own homes, and the attendances amounted to 13,249. We had 27 maternity cases and 20 medical cases in the ward. The staff consists of two trained nurses and two junior nurses.

We are sometimes fetched to villages twenty miles away, and if off the main road, and they nearly always are, we go by bullock cart, and this takes such a long time, besides the cramped position one sits in, and the bumps. These cases are truly pitiable, for, as a rule, the very worst has been done to the poor mother before proper help is sought. They are often transverse presentations, and the patient has been so badly torn that one knows that if she recovers she is injured for life. Last year, I am thankful to say, out of the 69 cases we had, not one mother died. The maternal death-rate at one time was nearly 20 per cent., and the infant mortality under a year 70 per cent. I think last year the Municipality said it had fallen to 2 per cent. and 15 per cent. respectively. When we attend a maternity case, we have to take everything with us: basins, bowls, towels, things for the bed, mother and baby; we keep a bundle always ready, for we never know when a call will come. These bundles contain four towels, two basins, three small bowls, three kidney trays, clean rag, a pad for the mother, binder, and safety pins, baby's nappy and little frock, and something for the bed. This is in addition to a well stocked maternity bag, but one simply cannot go without a good supply.

Besides all this, we do a lot of ante-natal work, and post-natal visiting and vaccinating. I took my training in this branch of the work in Bombay, and by this means am a recognised vaccinator.

This work is carried on by the help of friends at home. The All Saints Sisters are responsible for the finance, and like so many other places it is sadly handicapped for want of funds. I hardly think that there will be found anywhere such a place run on more economical lines. It costs roughly £300 per annum. This includes everything: a cook, handyman, laundry, food, drugs, repairs to building, unless extensive, all the salaries, and other expenses attached to a home. We make use of everything: old envelopes, which are used to put cotton wool in, or some mag. sulph., perhaps a dressing. Empty boot polish tins, which we boil and make quite clean, and use them to put ointment in. All sorts of odd bits of white rags, empty matchboxes, and so on. It is an interesting work, full of possibilities, but I must add that if I did many of the things in England that I do here, I should often be called over the coals, but please remember that India as yet has not half enough doctors, nurses or midwives. My nearest hospital is 43 miles away. No major operation can be done in these small towns, and often a man would rather his wife died than a male doctor should touch her, so one carries on, and the very fact that the maternal and infant mortality has decreased so much is a proof that all has not been in vain.

Every nurse since her probation days, when she wrestled with the wonders of the circulation of the blood, has been familiar with the name of John Harvey, to whose genius its discovery is due. The Royal College of Physicians is now celebrating the tercentenary of the publication of his immortal work on this subject, and at the same time an appeal is being made for a memorial to him, to take the form of the restoration of the tower of Hempstead parish church, in the churchyard of which he is buried. Donations may be sent to Dr. Arnold Stott, 58, Harley Street, W.1.

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