

"I don't know, Miss Macaulay, if you realise it, but that is one of the greatest compliments that could be paid to you."

This young boy always addressed me as "Mother," and declared that I had been the means of bringing about his ultimate recovery. This is only one example of many of psychology being put into practice.

A great many of our patients live in a world of phantasy of their own for the time being. The nurse has to more or less live their lives for them, she has to act for them, think for them, in fact, do everything, even to washing, dressing, and feeding many of them. They are utterly helpless, and it is only the individual touch and the hand of the nurse that can help so much to bring them back again to reality.

We hear a great deal about the present-day theoretical psychology, but how very few can, or know how to, apply it. This to my mind can only be applied by individual contact with the patient. To be able to practice psychology is a gift and cannot be preached.

No one will question that to minister to a mind diseased requires great qualities of heart and head; and you ladies who have been hearing and studying psychology recently will, I feel sure, agree with me that a wider knowledge of this enthralling subject can only be attained by personal application.

To me the work is most fascinating, full of interest, and deserving of the best we can give to try to bring in some measure health and comfort to those who have been deprived of their reasoning power and are entirely dependent upon us.

I regret to say that up to the present the Mental Nurse has not yet received her halo which her more august sister in general nursing has long since obtained, but I am convinced that the day will come when mental, or psychological, nursing as I prefer to term it, will become the blue ribbon of the profession.

At its conclusion the Chairman thanked Miss Macaulay in the name of those present for her most interesting and instructive address, and heartily congratulated the prize winner and those who had obtained certificates, on the interest they had shown in the question, coming out on dark nights to attend the lectures.

She said that all movements for progress had been made by individuals, but that individuals must be supported by the mass.

She thought that women nurses who had had most advantages should help male nurses to obtain the best training possible.

Miss Macaulay, in acknowledging the thanks of the meeting, said that she had very much appreciated her reception.

The Re-union was greatly enjoyed by Fellows, Members and guests, and the arrangement of the College came in for much admiration.

TEXT-BOOK FOR MENTAL NURSES.

Those who heard Miss Macaulay speak at the British College of Nurses on October 16th, and realised her enthusiasm for the promotion of the interests of mental nurses in all directions, will be interested to know that she has written a small Text-book for Mental Nurses which is to be published immediately by Messrs. Faber & Faber, Ltd., of 24, Russell Square, W.C. It is of special interest as it is the first to be written by a nurse in the British Isles on Mental (or psychological) nursing. It deals chiefly with the bedside nursing of the mentally sick as so many people, Miss Macaulay believes, have so erroneous an idea that in psychological nursing the nurse gets no facilities for bedside experience.

We await the publication of the book with much interest.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The forty-eighth meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, October 25th, at 2.15 p.m.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and the following members were present: Miss M. Breay and Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., *Vice-Presidents*; Miss E. Brodie, Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss Norah Farrant, Miss D. K. Graham, Miss I. Macdonald, Miss K. A. Smith, R.R.C., *Fellows*; and Miss H. G. Ballard, Miss A. M. Bright, and Miss K. M. Latham, R.R.C., *Members*.

Prayers having been read by the Secretary, the Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

THE DEATH OF MAJOR SIR RICHARD WHIELDON BARNETT.

Before considering the business on the Agenda the President rose and reported the death of Major Sir Richard Barnett, their very dear and loyal friend. She stated that by request a deputation of the Council attended the funeral service at Christ Church, Albany Street, N.W., at noon on Wednesday, October 22nd, at which other Fellows and Members of the College were present. A very beautiful wreath of white lilies, carnations and chrysanthemums, mounted in green, had been sent from the College, inscribed quite simply, "With Homage."

The President proposed, from the Chair, that the Council put on record, by Resolution, its loyal appreciation and the deep debt of gratitude owed by all Registered Nurses to the late Sir Richard Barnett.

RESOLUTION.

The following Resolution was agreed unanimously:—

"That this Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses desires to place on record its deep sense of the irreparable loss sustained by the Nursing Profession by the death of Major Sir Richard Barnett, whose noble service in the House of Commons in support of the highest ideals of Nursing has helped to elevate its ethical standards throughout the world."

A vote of condolence with Sir Richard's family was also passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

Interest had been aroused by the publication in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of an abstract of the paper by Dr. P. Watson Williams on "Chronic Toxæmia as a Cause of Degeneration of Mind and Conduct," and it was hoped the interest of the Council would continue in the urgent need for further accommodation for cases of Post-Encephalitis Lethargica.

On the question of the payment of dual insurance in Municipal Hospitals, for Nurses already insured under the Federated Scheme—the London County Council had supplied the Secretary with a copy of its "Superannuation and Provident Fund Schemes Applicable to Transferred Poor Law Officers."

These schemes required further study, but apparently no provision was made for interchange of benefits, or any form of amalgamation between the Federated Scheme and the Schemes of the London County Council. It was agreed that a communication be sent to the London County Council pointing out the hardship of dual insurance, and to urge that the matter be taken into consideration.

CORRESPONDENCE.

1. Letters from Miss E. M. Trenaman and Miss E. M. Menhennet from South Australia. Replies to be sent.

2. Discussion on the supply of partially trained "assistant" nurses by many so-called Co-operations, at charges which undercut the fees of Registered Nurses and deprived them of work.

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