

prepared, therefore, to give the widest possible latitude to local authorities to work out their salvation in the new problems now before them.

STRUCTURAL REQUIREMENTS OF COLONIES FOR MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

The Board of Control, with the approval of the Minister of Health, have appointed a Committee with the following terms of reference:—

"To consider and report what are the essential structural requirements of a complete colony for mental defectives of all types, and to what extent the cost could be reduced by the adoption of semi-permanent or temporary buildings or other new methods of construction, having regard to the comparative cost of maintenance as well as the initial capital expenditure involved."

The Chairman of the Committee is Mr. Walter Hedley, D.S.O., K.C., Recorder of Newcastle-on-Tyne, and the Secretary, Mr. H. J. Clarke, of the Board of Control.

PSYCHOLOGICAL CONCEPTIONS IN OTHER SCIENCES.

Dr. Charles S. Myers, when delivering the Herbert Spencer lecture at Oxford, chose as his subject "Psychological conceptions in other sciences." He stated that the once striking characteristics distinguishing matter from mind were fading rapidly. Mind appeared to be no more "unsubstantial" than matter; matter to be no more "predictable" than mind. To account for the evolution, the history, and conduct of the universe, or of any organised individual within the universe, whether relating to mind, life, or matter, not only mechanical principles, but also a certain adapting, selecting, guiding activity must ultimately be included among the first principles of science.

Dr. Myers submitted that just as there was nothing absolute in our spatial or temporal experience, or in the quality of our sensations, so there was nothing absolute in the intensity of the latter. There was now for physicists no absolute location of objects in space. What were primarily sought now were the mathematical relations in terms of which the universe could be described.

INTERESTING ITEMS FROM OUR EXCHANGES.

HEALTH CONFERENCE IN CANADA.

A most important forward movement, as reported in *The Canadian Nurse*, in relation to health problems and development in the Dominion of Canada, took place when, on invitation from the Hon. D. King, Minister of Pensions and National Health, representatives from fourteen national voluntary organisations in the Public Health field met during the last week in November at Ottawa.

The Canadian Nurses' Association was represented by Miss G. M. Bennett, Second Vice-President, and Miss G. Garvin, Chairman of District No 8, Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario.

Dr. King in his address outlined the degree in which the Canadian public was indebted to the organisations represented in the Conference for the high standard of public health education in the Dominion, for much of its health legislation, and for a large measure of the actual services in the field.

The Conference revealed that overlapping among these agencies was not nearly so wide spread or serious as had been thought, and could be met by co-operative effort. In fact, it was agreed that in some instances, such as the dissemination of health knowledge, considerable benefit was to be derived from a constant reiteration of the sound facts of health teaching.

The reports on the work of the different organisations indicated that practically any need that might arise for

national effort in the field of Public Health in Canada could now be met by the extension or adaptation of existing agencies.

A LOSS TO THE JOURNALISTIC WORLD.

Miss Carr has been editor of the *Public Health Nurse* since 1923. During these years the organisation has gone through periods of change and uncertainty and yet has continued to grow in strength, stability and service. Such progress in spite of fluctuations does not "just happen." Doubtless many trends of things and individuals have made such development possible. But no one has contributed more and to no one is more honour due than to Miss Carr. Her wisdom, sensitive judgment, delightful whimsicality, and ever-friendly response, have been one of the constant factors in all these years, and have brought life more abundant to the organisation and public health nurses throughout this and other lands.

For several years Miss Carr has felt and said that soon she must withdraw from such active work. She now feels that the time has come when this is possible. Therefore Miss Deming became editor January 1st, 1930. However, Miss Carr will remain as associate editor on part-time until August, 1930.

What Miss Carr has given and meant to the organisation is irreplaceable—but also it is everlasting!

Miss Deming is welcomed as editor because she has already made a very real place for herself with the magazine and as a member of the N.O.P.H.N. staff. Therefore, it is with a secure feeling that this change is announced.

IN THE HOUSEBOAT "QUEEN".

By MABEL RAINBOW, R.N.

(Visiting Nurse Association, Oakland, California.)

It had been a hard place for the visiting nurse to find. Twice she had turned back, but at last, pursuing a narrow dirt road strewn with broken bricks, she had come to the houseboat *Queen*, lying in the estuary surrounded by piles of driftwood almost as high as the houseboat itself. Gas tanks across the street, vacant lots heaped with old bricks carried there from wrecked buildings, old wood everywhere, but in front of the *Queen* there was a little garden with cabbages, onions, sweet peas and bright red geraniums all growing together. Inside the houseboat an old man was lying in a bunk with his bandaged foot elevated on a roll of bedding. This was Alex, this the environment in which he lived, and the place he loved.

Six weeks ago Alex met with an accident, a redwood block fell on his foot. A few days of neglect and trouble set in. "Gangrene," the doctor at the hospital said after the ambulance had taken him there. The foot was saved, however, and Alex's joy was great when he was allowed to return to the *Queen*. Meanwhile, the doctor telephoned the Visiting Nurse Association and gave instructions for daily dressings.

The inside of the *Queen* presents a quaint picture. A double bunk is in one corner, an oil-cloth covers the floor, and old lace curtains cover the windows. Everything is neat and tidy.

An aged and devoted brother has been with Alex since the accident. The fondness they display for each other is quite unusual, but Alex says "Brother just can't cook." He forgets "Brother" is seventy-five!

Alex plays the violin, his violin is his companion. While the nurse dresses the wound he sometimes plays, and the pain is eased, he says. Some days a bouquet of sweet peas is picked, ready for her. One day she was invited to "get some onions out of the yard."

Alex is able to hobble around now on crutches. A bath robe and an army shirt were offered. Tears filled his eyes when these were taken to him. Alex has said feelingly, "I shall miss my nurse when she stops coming," and he means it.—From the "*Public Health Nurse*."

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