

Sir D'Arcy Power, as we have indicated, desired to whet the appetite of his readers to induce them to read the older writers. We have, we trust, whetted the appetite of our readers sufficiently to induce them to read without delay Sir D'Arcy Power's own book, and having so done to pass on to the fascinating study of the history of their profession in which much knowledge still ungleamed awaits the patient seekers after truth.

MARGARET BREAY.

THE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL PSYCHOLOGY.

The Report for the year 1932 of The Institute of Medical Psychology, 6, Torrington Place, London, W.C. (The Tavistock Clinic), is an inspiring record of vigorous and much-needed work in many directions. Thus there are included the reports of the Chairman (Sir Henry B. Brackenbury, LL.D.), of the Hon. Director (Dr. H. Crichton Miller), on the In-patient Department (Dr. E. A. Bennet, M.C.), on the Children's Department (Dr. E. A. Hamilton-Pearson), on the Social Service Department (Mrs. P. D. Hamlyn), on the Speech Therapists' Department (Miss E. C. MacLeod), on the Play Room Work (by Miss P. Child), on the Library, by the Hon. Librarian (the Rev. H. Mattinson, M.A.), and on the Lecture Activities, by the Hon. Lecture Secretary (H. A. Downes, Esq.).

Just over a year ago the Institute established an organisation, the Chairman of which is the Lady Cynthia Colville, known as "The Friends of the Institute of Medical Psychology," which now has some 116 members. The object of the group is to make a link between the Institute and members of the intelligent public, as it is felt that if people can be interested in and understand the work that is being done, support will be forthcoming. The Chairman warmly commends the "splendid efforts" of the Friends of the Institute.

The Report of the Hon. Treasurer (Walter F. Roch, Esq.) states that "the past year has been one of considerable anxiety, an anxiety which, unfortunately, it seems only too plain will be further experienced in the year to come."

"The year has been perhaps the most eventful one in the history of the Institute from the financial point of view. The Council decided on the bold step of carrying out the construction of, and removal to, new premises. The building and furnishing of these involved an expenditure of approximately £7,300. . . ."

"The new building undoubtedly will enable the Institute to forward its work by the increased amount of treatment which it is possible to undertake. But while the opportunity is available in excellent surroundings, it will be impossible to seize it, if the Funds of the Institute are not considerably increased and reasonably secure."

The Hon. Treasurer appeals to all those who believe with him that the work of this Institute is of far-reaching and permanent value to the community, to make every effort within their power to help the Finance Committee to increase the regular income of the Institute. There are, he says, innumerable ways in which money ought to be obtainable and he would welcome suggestions and help from every possible quarter.

As the Chairman of the Council of Management points out in his Report, in the last few years the importance of psychiatry and the practice of psychological medicine have received recognition as never before. Already the Institute has been able, in its new premises, to begin more systematic and thorough schemes of professional education, and by slow stages the volume of treatment undertaken is being increased.

The Report appears to us an admirable example of what such a record should be.

BLIND MASSEURS HELP THE SIGHTED.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE'S CLINIC.

The basement of the National Institute for the Blind in London sinks four stories deep below the level of Great Portland Street, and the superstructure rises to a lofty roof in which is the Institute's famous school for blind masseurs. It is up here, in airy cubicles, that the Massage and Electrical Clinic which the school runs for the benefit of London's poor is to be found.

If you visit the Clinic on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday evening, you will have to pick your way past a long line of waiting patients, sent by hospitals, panel doctors, etc. Newcomers have letters of instruction from their own doctors, or they can be examined by medical officers attached to the Clinic. Everything is under expert medical supervision. In the cubicles one finds blind masseurs administering all forms of electrical treatment—diathermy, ionisation, radiant heat, Faradism, sinusoidal current, infra-red rays, Schnee baths—or perhaps ordinary massage or Swedish remedial exercises. Since the opening of the Clinic a year ago, close on 200 people have been treated, the actual number of treatments being 4,462; and there has been a very satisfactory percentage of recoveries. The psychological effect on a patient treated by a blind person is excellent in every way. The marvel of it is a distraction from his own ailments. If blindness can be overcome, even an obstinate case of lumbago can seem petty.

The variety of ailments treated—arthritis, rheumatism, nerve deafness, flat feet, facial paralysis, sciatica, lumbago, fractures, strains—demonstrates the thoroughness and scope of the blind masseur's training. Three of the eight cubicles are devoted to diathermy. Treatments are carried out by the advanced electrical students and a chartered blind masseuse. A fully-trained hospital electrical sister is in charge, and there are two visiting medical officers and one visiting orthopaedic surgeon.

Judging from the number of waiting patients, one would conclude that the number of cubicles should be increased—and there is certainly need for more waiting-rooms. But these points only indicate the Clinic's success, much of which is undoubtedly due to the organising ability of the Lady Almoner, Mrs. F. Chaplin Hall. Her duties call for much patience and tact, and it is evident from the cheerfulness of the patients that these qualities exist.

Inestimable service to the clinic was given by the late Dr. Alfred Eichholz, one of the first to recognise how valuable to the blind world itself would be the influence of blind masseurs—men and women who compensate for the loss of one sense by the development of another, who receive help only to give it, and repay sympathy with service. These sightless people are rendering magnificent service to their sighted neighbours.

VOLUNTARY AID SOCIETIES.

The following Societies have been recognised by His Majesty's Government as Voluntary Aid Societies for the purposes of the International Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armies of the Field, which was signed at Geneva on July 27th, 1929:

The British Red Cross Society.

The Grand Priory in the British Realm of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

The St. Andrew's Ambulance Association.

The Army Council, in pursuance of their powers under the Geneva Convention Act of 1911, have permitted these recognised Voluntary Aid Societies, subject to certain conditions, to make use of the Red Cross Emblem which is the distinctive sign of medical services of armed forces.

Unauthorised users of the Emblem are liable to proceedings under the Geneva Convention Act.

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