

testify to the value of the colony, which is only limited by the need of funds.

As Sybil said, "Why didn't anybody think of it before? That's what's killing my man, sir, the awful feeling that he is no use, and that he'll never be any use. The awful feeling, too, that other men won't work with him."

The good work at Papworth has been described too recently in this journal for it to be necessary for us to enlarge upon it, but when we are apportioning the gifts we can afford, let us remember that more homes can be built at Papworth, more families reunited in a suitable environment, if only the funds are forthcoming to help those who by the work help themselves.

Let us see to it.

### A HOLIDAY AT A LEPER HOSPITAL AND HOME.

Many people will exclaim: "What a place to spend a holiday in." I went there for a twofold purpose. Firstly, I needed a holiday, and, secondly, I wanted to learn something about this dread disease. The Mission to which I belong is poor, so could not afford to give too long a leave. I was going to friends, so I knew that along with the work there would be a good deal of pleasure. How I arrived there comes in another story. The hospital is in Dichpali, Hyderabad State, H.E.H. Dominions. It is a wonderful place, as you will soon see. The grounds cover 250 acres of land. The Principal, the Rev. and Dr. Mrs. Kerr, have their own bungalow. Sister Rankin and her colleague also have a nice bungalow to themselves, and it was with them that I spent such a jolly time. The first four days I was made to rest, stay in bed late, read some delightful books and go for walks in the evening. It was Monday when I started work. First I was taken to the women's compound, and there I was given a great welcome, and the children at once came and asked me if I was going to stay, and when I said, "Only for a short time," they were very sad but soon cheered up when I said, "But I'm coming to see you very often." There were only three patients in bed; the rest were all up and working about; two of the older patients, who were well on the way to being cured, had been promoted to nurses and were doing splendidly; by this means they earned a little salary which they were saving up for their homegoing. From here we went to the Medical Hall, where most of the treatment is carried out. First I was allowed to sit and watch Dr. Christian examine the male patients and order the day's treatment; this consists chiefly of intramuscular and interdermal injections of Chaulmoogra oil. There are about 400 patients, and every one is examined by the doctor at least twice a week. Those in bed are visited twice daily, and, of course, anyone seriously ill is visited frequently. The aim of this Home is to only take patients that appear curable. It is run on the principle of a Home and not an institution. Mrs. Kerr examines all the women and children. I spent four mornings with her, and then I was allowed to do the actual treatment.

At first I was very nervous, not of the disease, but in case I hurt them or gave the injections badly. I was astonished at the joy with which they received the little ticket saying which type of injection, and the quantity, and how sad when the doctor said, "Not to-day." The tiny children were just as keen; one little lad of four, with rather a bad heart, had his arm bared already, and when Mrs. Kerr said, "Not to-day, Sonny," he cried and said, "I want to get well quickly, please." It ended in him getting one saying he was to have inunction for a few days.

The oil is all prepared in the laboratory, which is a wonderful place.

Everything is provided to keep the patients happy and

occupied. To keep them busy is a part of the cure. Most of them work in the fields a part of the day; some in the weaving room; the children have a school. The older boys live in a hostel and with the help of a master run it themselves. The men live in small houses, generally two together. They are encouraged to play games, and have cricket, football, hockey and badminton matches. We had a cricket match while I was there, and then I went in and made six runs to the astonishment of all. There is also a cinema which the Rev. Kerr superintends. They have a regular Pathé Gazette, so that they may be kept in touch with passing events. I don't know when I saw a happier set of people, one would never guess that some of them had been there more than two years. Those that can go home are allowed to do so once a year. Those that are ready for discharge return every three months for the first year, and then, if satisfactory, every six months to have their blood tested and only when it has been negative for three consecutive tests are they considered cured, and even then they are advised to keep in touch with the Home. The entire management is in the hands of the Wesleyan Mission. Being State-aided, all Evangelistic teaching must be voluntary. On Sunday, out of a possible 600, nearly 500 were present. The attention and reverence with which they listened both to the reading of the Bible and the address was most inspiring.

There is also the Boys' and Girls' Brigade, and they look so spick and span in their uniforms and love their Brigade nights. I was shown how to give all the treatment and what to do in cases of a big reaction; how to find the *leprae bacilli*; take blood tests, and what symptoms to look for. Also what cases were best left alone. I had four oral and four written lectures which the doctor said I passed first-class. Now my aim is to put this knowledge to a practical use, and in the near future I'm expecting to be able to do so, especially if they pass a Bill in Bombay to stop all lepers from entering the city. Once these people find out that there is some hope for them, they will come for treatment. Last year I had about ten cases I suspected, but I did not feel justified in saying so, although I did advise them to go and get examined, but there are so few places for them to go to, and some are, like Dichpali, over 300 miles away. I have the British College of Nurses to thank for this experience; I was given a grant which enabled me to go. Only last week I had a letter from there begging me to re-visit them, and I certainly intend doing so in the near future.

SALLIE ROUND.

(Alas! Mrs. Kerr died quite recently.—ED.)

### REPORT OF CONFERENCE ON RADIUM.

The Conference on Radium, which owed its inception to the doubts expressed about the soundness of the decision of the Radium Commission to withdraw the 4-gram bomb in use at Westminster Hospital and to divide it into four units of one gram each, now issues its findings, based on the investigations of an expert committee.

The report states, according to the *Times* that the conference adopts the view of the committee that it is desirable that a radium unit containing not less than five grams of radium element should be established.

An institute specially constructed for the purposes of such radio-therapy and within easy reach of the future Post-Graduate School and Hospital is an ideal to be aimed at, it is stated, but for the moment it may be impracticable upon financial grounds.

The report should be read.

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