

tion in psychiatric nursing to be in charge of all responsible posts in mental hospitals;

3. In all countries text-books must be made available;
4. Specialised, post-graduate training should be required, before employment in mental hospitals and schools;
5. Only graduates to be employed as assistant head nurses;
6. Sister tutors to be employed, if head nurses are not capable of giving training;
7. Inspection of hospitals, and of the nursing to be done by experts;
8. For the subordinate staff, well-organised courses, with training also in general hospitals, should be organised, where this is not the case;
9. Ward-maids or cleaners should be employed for the rough work.

This seems to be a fairly stiff programme, and instantly by no means to be carried out, but both the first suggestions, if realised, would be an avenue out of the present state of backwardness in the mental nursing field.

We know that reforms can be obtained only through real and general understanding and interest. Miss Gunn said at the Congress at Montreal: "Mental hygiene ought to be the corner-stone of all nursing. Instead we have only touched upon this inexhaustively rich field. It is not right that so many mentally afflicted are left without care; it is not right that so many apparently only physically sick should be left without understanding attention, which could be given to them if the training of nurses were more comprehensive."

It was a challenge from the general nursing world.

The preventive work is a part of the whole as I stated in the beginning. It has already gained a great interest among nurses.

Our case, being an educational one, is difficult to deal with as a separate question. The problem will be solved to a great extent in connection with the question of education. Therefore we hope for the support of the Grand Council and the Education Committee in endorsing these suggestions and in incorporating them in the recommendations for the education of nurses in every country.

A discussion, which Miss Reimann introduced in the programme in Montreal, was the question of drug-addicts, sent in by the International Women's Association.

It developed, however, out of the discussion on this matter in Montreal that the drug-addicts among nurses in some countries is nearly unknown, in others, a very limited one, and therefore cannot be said to have more influence on the standard of the nurses than any other illness. Thus the Committee did not think that this question was within the scope of its work. We did not place it under discussion during this first four-year period.

This committee would be very happy if the Council would consider the recommendations now made, with a view to giving the Committee some constructive suggestions, as to what kind of information it should gather which would throw more light on this important educational subject and be most helpful to the different countries. It would also like to know the best way by which these recommendations could be applied practically.

We should finally like most heartily to express our appreciation for all good work done by the members of the Committee during this period, for the rich materials, collected which now form a very valuable historical collection out of which we got the background for this report and the recommendations made, as well as a basis for future research work and activity.

The Report of Fru Karin Neuman-Rahn was received with much sympathy by the Board of Directors and the following Recommendations were approved.

## RECOMMENDATIONS.

### I. GENERAL SCHOOLS OF NURSING.

- (a) That all general hospital schools of nursing include in the basic course of instruction the principles of mental nursing and hygiene.
- (b) That instruction in mental hygiene begin in the preliminary course, and as far as possible be woven into the courses concerned with teaching the principles and practice of nursing, the biological and the social sciences.
- (c) That when teaching the care of the sick patient, the individual in his entirety be taken into consideration, and the mental, social and physical conditions be considered in their relation to each other.
- (d) That in order to promote this kind of instruction, instructors and head nurses be encouraged to prepare themselves to give this point of view.
- (e) That as soon as mental hospitals accept their responsibility for maintaining a worth while educational programme and provide more satisfactory working and living conditions, we urge and encourage the general and mental hospitals to join in affiliation so that all students may as soon as possible have an opportunity for experience in the care of the mentally sick in a mental hospital.

### II. MENTAL HOSPITALS.

- (a) That executive and teaching positions, including the positions of director of the school and nursing service, instructors, supervisors, and head nurses, should be given only to fully trained nurses, who have prepared themselves for this special branch of nursing and who are qualified to teach.
- (b) That nursing services and schools in Mental Hospitals should be under the same type of inspection and supervision as General Hospitals and Schools.
- (c) That the functions of all subsidiary helpers should be defined, and these workers be differentiated from graduate and student nurses.
- (d) That affiliations with General Hospitals cannot be made compulsory till adequate facilities for the teaching and maintenance of student nurses have been provided.
- (e) That where adequate facilities for instruction are maintained post-graduate courses should be established.
- (f) That trained general nurses, when working in mental hospitals, should be called "nurses"—not "mental nurses."

Next month we propose to publish the very able paper on "The Opportunity of the Nursing Profession in Relation to the Mental Hygiene Movement" presented by Miss Effie J. Taylor, President, National League of Nursing Education of the United States of America.

### WORK OF THE L.C.C.

Three annual reports of the London County Council are published by P. S. King and Son (price 1s. each). "Public Assistance, Vol. I (Part II)," deals with the administration of poor relief during 1931 and covers such subjects as domiciliary relief, institutional relief, other Poor Law functions, and the determination of transitional payments. "Public Health, Vol. III (Part I)," is the report for 1932 of the County Medical Officer of Health. "Education, Vol. V," covers the work during 1932 of the elementary schools, with chapters on special services, continuation schools, and other matters.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)