

Publique, which reported on it to all the Governments concerned.

MENTAL WELFARE.

An important three days' Conference, convened by the Central Association for Mental Welfare, recently held in London, was attended by delegates from all parts of the Kingdom.

It began with a joint session with the Public Health Congress at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, at which Mr. L. G. Brock (Chairman of the Board of Control), presided, the subjects under discussion being boarding out from mental hospitals, and after care.

Commenting on the difficulties of boarding out, the Chairman said they included, first, the selection of suitable patients to be so treated; next, the selection of suitable guardians; and then the question of suiting patients and guardians to each other. He said further that experience had shown that by the work of the association it was often possible to discharge patients earlier than would otherwise be the case, because they were still under careful supervision and could be readily returned to hospital if necessary. There was still considerable scope for the extension of this admirable work.

At a meeting held at the Headquarters of the British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, W.C., Sir Leslie Scott (President), who presided, said that the Association was formed at a time of crisis in the history of the subject twenty-one years ago, and that it had the approval and support of the Board of Control, county associations, and educational bodies. All progress seemed to be in a general direction, away from the old theory of incarcerating defectives in asylums or segregated groups, and towards a policy of bringing them as much as possible in touch with their normal fellows.

The Minister of Health (Sir Hilton Young), who was the guest of the association at luncheon at the Hotel Russell, congratulated them on having at their disposal the wisdom of Sir Leslie Scott as President, and the enthusiasm of Miss Evelyn Scott as Hon. Secretary. The responsibilities of public administration were (he said) direct and primary, but best results could not be achieved without the assistance of the voluntary organisations. They adjusted the hard facts of administration in the light of human sympathy and made the product available for the general understanding. He made the suggestion that they should bring the advantage of their experience to bear upon the difficult question of voluntary sterilisation of the unfit. The report of the Departmental Committee supplied the raw material, and it would be of the greatest practical utility if they would inform public opinion and create a national conscience in that matter and so enable the Government to take action.

THE NATIONAL RADIUM TRUST AND RADIUM COMMISSION.

The fifth annual report of the National Radium Trust just issued states that two developments point to a coming need for a larger supply. In the first place, the value of radium treatment is being more widely recognised, and more patients are taking it. Secondly, the latest technique demands the use of larger units of radium.

Mention is made of the method of "beam therapy," in which use is made of a highly penetrating beam of rays directed upon the malignant growth from a large quantity of radium (a "bomb") which is not in direct contact with the body. Work with one-gramme units has been carried out at the Cancer Hospital, the Middlesex Hospital, and University College Hospital, a total of 251 cases having received treatment.

The report emphasises the complex character of the

reaction to radium of the tissues of the body. In the case of cancer of the uterus it is stated that: "Frankly operable cases are treated just as successfully by radium as by surgery, but with a much smaller operation mortality, while surgically inoperable cases treated by radiation yield a by no means negligible percentage of clinical cures (*i.e.*, apparent freedom from disease) of five years' standing."

In cases of early cancer of the tongue "radium is a successful agent in proper hands."

On March 31st last, the Trust owned 19 grammes of radium.

The Report is entitled "Medical Uses of Radium: Summary of Reports from Research Centres, 1933. Special Report Series No. 197." Stationery Office, 9d. net.

A CHAIR OF NATIONAL HEALTH.

What is claimed to be the first Chair of National Health not only in Germany but in the world, was inaugurated on November 13th at Munich by Dr. Gerhard Wagner, the head of the German Medical Association.

The first professor of the new faculty, Dr. Schultze, the Bavarian State Commissar for Health, in addressing a crowded audience of students, stated that the new instruction would have as its negative side the combating of medicinal errors arising from specialisation. Among its positive studies were racial culture and supervision, housing and settlement problems, social insurance, and what was good in the so-called lay medicine. The principle on the whole would be "National health means political power."

AID FOR DEAF CHILDREN.

Deaf children in L.C.C. schools are to be taught by an instrument which has the appearance of an ordinary wireless receiver with loud-speaker and headphones, each with an independent volume control.

The instrument has already been tried experimentally with astonishing success, the Education Committee reports, adding: "We are advised that its use may have a very important influence on the methods of teaching the deaf who have any residual hearing."

Eight instruments, costing £496, are recommended.

CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS.

The National Birth Control Association has, states *The Lancet*, appointed a medical sub-committee, consisting of practitioners actively engaged in the teaching of contraception, to collect, coördinate, and from time to time draw up for publication, authoritative information on all aspects of contraception for the use of the medical profession. The committee would therefore be glad to hear from any doctor, clinic or manufacturer interested in birth control, in order that it may have the fullest possible sources of information. Communications should be addressed to the Secretary of the Association, 26, Eccleston Street, London, S.W.1.

THE MILK IN SCHOOLS SCHEME.

"The Milk in Schools Scheme, which was introduced by the Milk Marketing Board on October 1st, and was formally opened by Mr. Walter Elliot, the Minister of Agriculture, has," says the Board, "achieved an outstanding success. Returns for the first month of the scheme show that it has been adopted in 18,000 schools or school departments, and it is estimated that scholars were supplied with 60,000,000 third-pint bottles of milk during that period."

INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL PSYCHOLOGY RECOGNITION BY LONDON UNIVERSITY.

The academic Council of the University of London has passed a resolution recognising the Institute of Medical Psychology as an approved clinic in connection with the Post-Graduate Diploma in Psychology.

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