

period. A charge of half-a-crown a session will be made, and it is thought that the opportunity of having access to the expert staff and elaborate equipment at such a figure will prove a boon to many people.

Sessions will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. each Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. In the first instance, a patient should call at the Hospital between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Thursday so that her special course of treatment may be prescribed. After the required course of treatment, a patient will be referred back to her own doctor with a report of her condition. The work will be in charge of Dr. W. S. Gross.

The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Stephen Killik, has given a silver spoon bearing the City of London arms to the East End Maternity Hospital.

Mr. George A. Eastwood, of Chesterfield, has left £10,000 to Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Royal Hospital for building new medical wards, if a similar sum has not been given in his lifetime by him for the purpose.

A Jubilee dinner and Scottish ball took place at the Hotel Metropole at Monte Carlo on April 23rd, the proceeds to be given to the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital at Nice, which is in urgent need of financial support. The pipes and full band of the Black Watch proved a great attraction, and many notable guests reserved seats.

An appeal for £60,000 for the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, Euston Road, N.W., of which the Queen is the patron, is being made by Lady Robertson (Chairman), the Hon. Mrs. John Mulholland (Vice-chairman), and Lady Kindersley (Treasurer and Chairman of Appeal). It is hoped to build a wing of 24 to 30 beds for private patients and a Nurses' Home, and to add at least 20 beds to the new maternity department, which is already too small.

The Earl of Athlone recently presided over a dinner at the Mansion House in support of the work of the London Society for Teaching and Training the Blind, which, in consequence of the approaching expiration of the lease of its school at Swiss Cottage, is appealing for £50,000. Lord Athlone announced at the close of the dinner that £16,000 had been raised, including a donation of £1,000 from Lady Houston.

A message from the King, who, together with the Queen, is a patron of the society, was read by the chairman.

The Rev. Martin Kiddle, chaplain to the General Infirmary, Leeds, brings to our notice through *The Times*, a barbarous custom which should only need publicity to be at once reformed. He writes:—

"Sir,—During my work as the chaplain of the General Infirmary at Leeds I found that police officers were accustomed to sit day and night at the bedside of patients who were under police supervision because of attempted suicide or similar cause. I observed that in many such cases it was a great shock to these patients on first recovering consciousness to see policemen in uniform watching them and waiting to effect their arrest.

When I brought the matter to the notice of the Chief Constable of Leeds he examined the whole problem with great care and sympathy, and has now directed that 'in all future cases where it is necessary to keep persons detained in hospital under police supervision, such supervision will be given by officers in plain clothes.'

It occurred to me that as it is the practice in most large hospitals to exercise police supervision by means of officers in uniform, it would be a service to humanity if you could make the improvement at Leeds more widely known.

I am your obedient servant,

MARTIN KIDDLE."

## THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF MENTAL DISORDERS.

The Annual Report for 1934 of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital, Morningside, for mental and nervous disorders, presented at the Statutory Annual Meeting recently, at the City Chambers, by the Physician-Superintendent, Dr. David Kennedy Henderson, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.F.P.S.G., is a most human, sympathetic and hopeful document.

The Hospital comprises the University Psychological Clinic, the Jordanburn Nerve Hospital and the Associated Nursing Homes, Craig House and the West House. Dr. Henderson is Professor of Psychiatry in the University of Edinburgh, and Physician-Consultant in Psychiatry at the Royal Infirmary, and thus holds in his hands the many threads in the mental world in that lovely city, whose institutions for the care and treatment of persons suffering from mental disorders are justly famous.

It is a comparatively short time ago since sufferers from mental disorders were confined in institutions known as "madhouses," over the doors of which "abandon hope all ye who enter here" might well have been inscribed. In the next stage of development we had what were termed "lunatic asylums." Now the term "lunatic" has deservedly fallen into disrepute, and "asylums" have given place to mental hospitals, where treatment is actively directed to the prevention and cure of mental disorders, and to the removal of the stigma which formerly attached to patients suffering from mental diseases; the unfortunate result being that persons with symptoms of oncoming mental trouble did not seek treatment, and were not persuaded by friends and relations to obtain medical advice until the disease was well established, whereas it is of the utmost importance that diseases of the mind should be treated at the earliest possible stage.

It is, therefore, inspiring to note that in the Jordanburn Nerve Hospital, where there were 216 admissions during the year, 128 of the patients were discharged recovered and relieved, and only 39 as not improved, and three died.

In the Nursing Homes above-mentioned, there were 121 admissions, 104 patients were discharged recovered and relieved and nine died.

The value of the Jordanburn Hospital to the medical resources of the city, and also to a much wider area, "cannot," it is stated, "be over-estimated. Patients are admitted without any legal formalities just as they are to a General Hospital or Nursing Home. . . . A department of this sort catering for people who are sensitive, in need of immediate help, and yet not so seriously involved as to require care and treatment under mental hospital conditions, is closely akin to the Psychiatric Clinics so common on the Continent, and in the United States, and incorporates features of the Maudsley Hospital and the Tavistock Clinic so well known in London.

"The success of the Department depends not only on the skill of the medical and nursing staff, but also on the support and co-operation of a generous public. Its essential usefulness lies in dealing with the preventive aspects of nervous and mental illness, and in obviating the necessity of prolonged treatment under more stringent conditions. . . . An urgent need which would greatly enhance the therapeutic possibilities of Jordanburn would be the establishment of a well-organised Occupational Department in a separate building."

Of the Out-patient Clinic at the Royal Infirmary we read that the work of the Department corresponds in scope very closely with the work of the Out-patient Clinic at the Jordanburn Hospital, "but perhaps it is more diagnostic and advisory than therapeutic, although it is surprising and gratifying to see how many patients,

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