

worth had created a record, for that was the fifteenth visit from members of the Royal House of Windsor.

A new convalescent home at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Brockley Hill, Stanmore, Middlesex, was opened recently by the Duchess of Gloucester. Mr. R. Holland Martin offered the gift of the new home to the hospital on behalf of the trustee of the late Mr. Zachary Merton, who left some £350,000 for erecting convalescent homes throughout the country. The Duchess presented the John Binford Barnett gold medal to Nurse Phipps and afterwards visited children in the home.

#### £10,000 GIFT FOR RADIUM.

It is announced that King Edward's Hospital Fund for London has received a further gift of £10,000 for its Radium Fund from Mr. Roger Parr.

The radium owned by the Fund is permanently on loan to various London hospitals and now amounts to a very large proportion of the total radium in use amongst the Voluntary Hospitals of London.

This fund was inaugurated by a very large gift from the late Sir Otto Beit and augmented by further gifts from Mr. Roger Parr and sums collected for the Thankoffering Fund for King George's recovery in 1929.

### THE 1930 FUND.

#### REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30th, 1936.

The Committee of the 1930 Fund are glad to report that, in spite of many calls upon their resources, they have been able during the past year, not only to carry on the regular weekly grants being made to nurses in all cases where the necessity continued, but also, in 33 cases, to increase such grants to meet changing conditions. In addition, new weekly grants have been begun in 39 cases. These new grants and the increases have meant an additional expenditure of about £2,000 a year, and only a very small portion of this has been compensated for by the decrease or discontinuance of grants. Eleven nurses in receipt of weekly grants have died during the year. Some grants were given to bridge the gap between a nurse's enforced retiral from active work and her becoming eligible for her State or other pension. Such grants have been reduced as a rule when the financial circumstances improved.

Seventy-two new enquiries and between 40 and 50 re-applications have been dealt with. Special grants to meet emergencies of one kind or another have been given in 54 cases already known to the Committee and in 19 new cases. The special Christmas gifts, by which 320 nurses benefited this year, continue to be a happy feature of the Committee's work, bringing them into real personal touch with the recipients.

Throughout the year it has been possible to help many with gifts in kind, hospitality, friendly visits and outings, and the Committee are also glad that full use continues to be made of the Office as a place to obtain information and advice on widely varying problems affecting the individual nurse. This is a field of activity which the Committee scarcely envisaged when the Fund began. But they have ample proof of the constant gratitude of district nurses to the generous anonymous donor who has made it possible, and who has brought also comfort and freedom from anxiety and often renewed health and activity to so many.

The Accounts, which have been audited by the Honorary Auditors, Messrs. Gundry, Cole, Bond, Straus and Manning, Chartered Accountants, show that, during the year to June 30th 1936, this Committee have disbursed the sum of £7,964 5s. 2d.; £7,460 8s. 8d. of this being in the form of regular weekly grants and £503 16s. 6d. special grants. The total administration expenses have been £626 6s. 5d.

## INSTITUTE FOR THE SCIENTIFIC TREATMENT OF DELINQUENCY.

(Communicated.)

Until last century the attitude of Society to the criminal was based on the assumption that some form of punishment was the only corrective. This extreme view was gradually modified through the efforts of humanitarians to reform the criminal. The Law accepted this modification, and until recently all official methods of dealing with crime aimed at punishment or reformation through certain forms of education.

Much more, however, remains to be done. In 1934 there were 37,675 receptions of persons into prison. Of these, over half had been in prison before, some as many as 20 times. The average yearly cost to the nation of each prisoner is £100.

As a result of researches in different fields of science, there now appears to be reasonable prospect of putting an end to this costly failure. Psychologists have delved into the motives and impulses of the criminal; alienists have traced the relations between insanity and crime; physicians have isolated forms of anti-social conduct due to organic disease; and sociologists have studied the effect on social conduct of home conditions and upbringing. By the combined efforts of these workers it has proved possible to offer Society a new approach to the problem. More important still, it is now possible to apply the principles of preventive medicine to crime. Not only can remedial measures be taken before sentence, but, given proper organisation, anti-social types can be detected and treated before they come into conflict with the law.

The Institute exists to give effect to this new system.

It was founded in 1932, and its Clinic was opened in 1933. This has a highly trained staff of experts whose services are entirely voluntary. By the courtesy of the Hospital Committee it has been housed at the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Welbeck Street, W.1. Cases are seen daily, sent by magistrates, probation officers, charitable societies, relatives of offenders, doctors and others. The cases are seen for diagnosis, report, advice and treatment. Each offender is first examined by organic physicians to sift out those whose delinquency is due to physical causes. He is then given a psychological examination, and if insanity is suspected a psychiatrist is called in. At the end of these and other examinations a report, signed by the Board of Directors, is presented to the proper authorities. Advice is given and treatment offered to suitable cases. The treatment in most instances consists of some form of psychotherapy. Where other factors are involved, the appropriate treatment is given, and, if necessary, the case is recommended to a suitable hospital or institution. Already the Clinic has a number of actual cures to its credit. Included amongst these are a number of habitual offenders who are regarded by general consent as the most difficult cases to treat.

Two examples may be cited. The first, a man repeatedly in prison for the same sex offence in spite of his own efforts to overcome the impulse, has now returned to his former skilled trade with complete control of his conduct, happy and normal in his outlook on life. The other, a girl of 22, a persistent thief for ten years and charged again with theft shortly after her release from prison, is living happily in her home and at work where previously she had been discontented and rebellious.

There is no end to the possibilities of such an Institute. But already its actual work is being hampered through

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