

lack of funds. Its doctors are being taxed to the limit of their capacities. It has no observation hostel, and therefore cannot undertake the diagnosis of cases requiring supervision, a fact which magistrates have frequently deplored. It needs funds to provide a permanent staff of medical and lay workers and to support a permanent home forming the centre of its activities.

Valuable research work has to be suspended to meet the ever increasing demand for treatment. Even so, the Institute Staff has responded generously to demands on its time made by other organisations. It has given technical instruction to Probation Officers, has helped in the organisation of preventive work in the provinces, has lectured on the treatment of crime to legal, sociological and other societies and has founded the first English Journal on Delinquency. Further developments will depend on the generosity of the public. Although the Institute can be credited with saving money to the community, it receives no Government grant. Like almost all pioneer enterprises, it depends for support on those who visualise and have faith in the application of scientific method to the problems of Society. But the time has now come to make a wider appeal—an appeal to all those who are concerned in the prevention of human suffering. The Institute is confident that no more humane cause could engage their generosity.

SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF CRIME.

The Senate of the University of London has welcomed the suggestion, put forward in the report of the Advisory Committee on the Scientific Investigation of Crime, that a National Medico-Legal Institute should be established in the University.

The Institute, it is suggested, would concern itself chiefly with post-graduate study and would provide separate courses of instruction for students of law and for persons or bodies of persons whose duties require, or would benefit by, more detailed knowledge of the subject of forensic medicine. Law and medicine are not antagonists but fellow searchers of the truth; and Justice must needs be less than just if she is less than scientific.

THE INSTITUTE OF HOSPITAL ALMONERS.

The Report for the year 1935 of the Institute of Hospital Almoners (Incorporated), Tavistock House (North), Tavistock Square, W.C.1, is interesting, both as a record of useful work accomplished and also because it opens up a vista of employment in which the demand is greater than the supply, which it seems would afford a congenial occupation to registered nurses who can devote three years to obtaining the necessary qualification.

The main objects of the Institute, of which Sir E. Farquhar Buzzard, Bt., K.C.V.O., F.R.C.P., is President, are (1) to select, train and arrange for the training of suitable candidates for the work of Hospital Almoners; (2) to grant certificates to trained and qualified students; (3) to keep a register of trained Almoners; (4) to recommend trained Almoners to Hospital Authorities; and (5) to extend and develop the work of Hospital Almoners.

In the Review of the Year it is stated that "the increasing number of Hospitals that include an Almoner's Department in the Hospital service, and the growing recognition that special training is needed for this work, resulted at the close of the year in a serious shortage in the number of Almoners available for posts. This has created a difficult situation, for it is a temptation to shorten the period of training in order to meet the pressing demand. The Council is convinced, however, that to lower the standard would provide no solution. The aim of the training is to maintain a definite standard and yet allow enough elasticity to fit the particular needs of each student. The training was never designed to produce a type, nor to equip the student

with a set of hard and fast rules by which to work. It is an attempt to set out the principles on which all sound social work must be built and to develop the capacity of the student herself, and to enable her later to adapt what she has learned to the particular needs of the Hospital and the locality in which she finds her work."

The Council of the Institute, in concluding their Report, repeat that the urgent need for 1936 is for more good candidates for training. The training provided by the Institute normally covers a period of three years.

PROFESSIONAL REVIEW.

THE WOMAN ASKS THE DOCTOR. *

This book by Emil Novak, M.D., D.Sc., is rightly timed in meeting a need undoubtedly felt by great numbers of women for a sound and comprehensible knowledge of their organic functions, with sufficient biology to make its scientific message clear to the lay mind.

The whole aspect of the book is on the modern outlook that a right knowledge is the true key to prevention of much unnecessary suffering.

The author's expression "the progressive physician," well illustrates his own psychological attitude in the process of diagnosis and cure which can be summed up in his own words, "the trouble and time taken in suitable cases of winning the co-operation of the patient in her own cure by giving her an explanation of the general nature of the problem to be solved." This assumes an instinctive appreciation of what the educated woman of to-day requires.

Emphasis is laid on the need for women to consult a physician with the early appearance of symptoms rather than secretly worry over what may appear to be slight abnormalities which are better if effectively checked, rather than running the possible risk of the trouble partaking of a more serious nature.

Much useful knowledge can be culled from Dr. Novak's book as a guide to a mother in dealing with her adolescent daughter as well as her own needs at middle age and later.

When this modern attitude is assumed by the physician no woman need fear the aspersion of "Neurosis" when she seeks an explanation of her symptoms, an attitude too commonly assumed in the past.

The author's arguments for instituting the precaution of routine medical inspections as a preventive and prophylactic measure, particularly in relation to the essential need for early diagnosis of cancer, are worthy of greater publicity on practical as well as humane grounds. The principle has been accepted in dental prophylaxis, therefore an extension of the idea, if freely ventilated, should soon awaken a response from the woman who runs her home.

This book, in its wide approach and interesting reminders of early and still existing superstitions, will interest those in particular who have culled knowledge only from text-books in readiness for State Examinations.

It would be difficult to find any class of reader who would not be a wiser and a happier woman for studying and adopting the suggestions, where applicable, that can be culled from the pages of this readable and clearly illustrated book.

G. LE G.

According to official figures just published, nearly one million fewer men and women suffered from malaria in U.S.S.R. during 1935 than in 1934.

This phenomenal decrease is attributed to the use of aeroplanes for the destruction of larvæ of malaria-carrying mosquitoes, and to the widespread adoption of the new Soviet anti-malaria preparation known as "plasmocide."

* Messrs. Christophers, 22, Berners Street, W.1. Price 5/-.

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