

document that has yet been issued on Nutrition. . . . I am immediately taking steps to implement the present conclusions of the Committee. To-day, I have communicated with all the maternity and child welfare authorities of the country."

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC AND ANCILLARY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

The Board of Control, with the approval of the Minister of Health, have appointed the following to be a Committee to advise upon questions arising in connection with scientific and ancillary mental health services:—

The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Radnor (Chairman); Sir Laurence Brock, C.B.; Sir Hubert Bond, K.B.E., D.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P.; Alderman J. W. Black, J.P.; Alderman W. E. Lovsey, J.P.; A. A. W. Petrie, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.E., D.P.M.; Miss Adeline Roberts, O.B.E., J.P., M.B., B.S.; Alderman J. C. Grime, M.B.E., J.P.; C. J. Thomas, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M.; George Somerville, Esq., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.M.; H. J. Clarke (Secretary).

A Committee was appointed in 1931, but owing to the financial crisis which occurred in that year, its work remained in abeyance.

The Mental Treatment Act, 1930, empowered local authorities to provide for out-patient treatment and for the after-care of mental patients, and, subject to the approval of the Board of Control, to undertake, or contribute towards the expenses of, research in relation to mental illness.

The primary function of the Advisory Committee will be to advise the Board of Control regarding organisation, encouragement of research, and other ancillary services within its purview. On technical questions relating to research, the Committee will have the expert assistance of members of the Committee on Mental Disorders of the Medical Research Council.

#### CARE AND AFTER-CARE OF THE TUBERCULOUS.

Sir Kingsley Wood, the Minister of Health, on May 3rd delivered the inaugural address at the Empire Conference on the Care and After-care of the Tuberculous at Overseas House, St. James', London.

Sir Kingsley Wood said that until some ten years ago tuberculosis stood first among the principal epidemic diseases as a cause of mortality in England and Wales. In 1851-55 it produced a standardised death-rate of 3,638 per million of the population. The discovery of tubercle bacillus by Robert Koch in 1882 had led to the development of large-scale methods for its treatment and control, and in 1935 the corresponding standardised death-rate was only 687. Nevertheless, tuberculosis still stood in this country next to cancer upon the list of killing diseases.

The Conference would enable anti-tuberculosis workers, both medical and lay, from all parts of the Empire to interchange their scientific and administrative knowledge and experience, and to derive fresh inspiration for their endeavours in the presentation of a common front to this great enemy of human health and happiness.

It was, he said, sound doctrine that tuberculosis should not be driven underground by the exposure of consumptive persons to drastic restrictions or interference arbitrarily imposed, but that we should look to adequate education of the population in the elements of health matters to secure recourse to medical advice, and the public facilities available for specialist diagnosis and treatment, at the earliest possible stage.

Sir Kingsley Wood commended particularly the value of Village Settlements, at which provision is made not only for the patients' treatment at every stage of the disease but for suitable occupation during treatment and, upon the

completion of treatment, for their employment under conditions adapted to the needs of individual patients and under continuous medical supervision. In these Settlements married patients live normal home lives with their families in suitable cottages.

Sir Kingsley Wood also emphasised the importance of the after-care of patients who did not enter a Village Settlement.

#### MINISTER OF HEALTH AT MANCHESTER.

*"The life of a nurse should not be a drab one."*

Sir Kingsley Wood, speaking at Manchester at the laying of the Foundation Stone of the Nurses' Home Extension of the Victoria Memorial Jewish Hospital recently, said that in recent years public attention had rightly been focused much more on the conditions of the nursing service. Nurses in training could not learn, and nurses already trained could not work, in unsatisfactory surroundings. A matter of pre-eminent importance was the question of accommodation for nurses. Nothing was worse for a nurse than to sleep and live in a depressing environment.

It was satisfactory to record that in the last two years the Ministry of Health had sanctioned loans to local authorities amounting to nearly £400,000 for the provision of additional accommodation and the improvement of existing accommodation for nurses, and during the same period £180,000 derived from other sources was spent by local authorities for the same purpose. Voluntary hospitals had moved steadily along in the same direction.

There was the question of hours of work. The matter was an important and difficult one. It was difficult because the interests of the patient did not always permit rigid adherence to a limit of working hours. But exhausted nurses could not carry out their arduous and exacting duties, which demanded not only physical energy, but mental alertness. Exhaustive hours of work were particularly to be deplored if imposed upon probationer nurses, because in their case undue fatigue made effective study and training impossible. This meant a legacy of trouble for the next generation. Any such conditions were calculated to have a deterrent effect on recruitment to the profession. It was for all these reasons that he greatly valued the encouraging example the management of the Memorial Hospital had set by adopting a 48-hour week for their nurses. It was also necessary that the life of a nurse should not be a drab one. The course of her duties brought her constantly in touch with much that was painful. It was essential that there should be some compensation by way of comfort and enjoyment in her leisure hours. The atmosphere of the hospital itself was important, undue stringency of regulation of the hours off duty was to be deprecated. Good material conditions were important, but the spirit of a hospital meant a lot.

#### CHILD HEALTH DAY.

President Roosevelt on April 9th proclaimed May 1st as Child Health Day and urged the people of the United States to plan for "health protection for every child" during the coming year.

The proclamation said safeguarding the health of children was "protecting the vitality of the nation." It added that the Federal Government had been co-operating with State and local governments in the last year in extending and improving health services for children.

The President emphasised that 1937 was the 25th anniversary of the founding of the children's bureau of the labour department. He asked the people not only to plan for health protection but to "consider and appraise child health conditions and the community organisation" for improving child health.

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