

involved in the examination of cases, and this may be realised from the Report of the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Edward Mapother, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., "that the duration of the initial investigation of every case is at least an hour, and in difficult cases far longer."

The splendid new Out-patients' Hall is also used for lectures, cinema entertainments, dances and concerts. A unique cupboard which opens in the wainscotting stores the stage scenery. Quite a number of patients were waiting to see the doctor, looking very comfortable on uninstitutional-looking chairs of grey oak, and here again the aesthetic colour scheme is most pleasing to the senses.

At the canteen at the end of the hall, which is conducted by voluntary workers, patients and their visitors can buy a cup of tea for 1d., and other light refreshments for a correspondingly small charge.

The Villa.

Passing through the main building, after a short walk through the gardens, came the villa, a pleasant house looking on to the beautiful grounds where there is accommodation for seven men and eleven women.

Here the small rooms or wards all open on to sun balconies; the rooms are comfortably equipped, and the purple blankets in use were much admired.

On returning to the main building, our hostess most kindly refreshed the members with a delectable tea in the Committee Room.

In the course of conversation we learned that a shortage of accommodation has necessitated the living out of some of the nursing and domestic staff, and the Matron has been greatly surprised to find how very successful this has proved in the satisfactory working of the hospital, and the beneficial effect on the staff concerned is marked, and she would recommend it for senior staff.

The Pathological Laboratory.

After tea this very interesting tour was resumed, and a visit to the Pathological Laboratory followed. At the entrance the Class was very kindly received by Dr. S. A. Mann, D.Sc., F.I.C., who first conducted the class round the Medical Library and Lecture Theatre, and explained that Psychological Courses held at this Centre are attended by people from all over the world; that the Maudsley Pathological Laboratory is the Central Laboratory of the L.C.C. Mental Hospitals, involving work in connection with some 37,000 patients, including 17 Mental Hospitals. Dr. Mann drew attention to a bust of Sir Frederick Mott erected in the Lecture Theatre, pointing out that what had happened in the advance of post-graduate training of medical men and the voluntary system, had been first thought of by Sir Frederick Mott, the great research physician. After leaving the Library of the Pathological department the class was taken through the numerous testing rooms, where illuminating details were explained of some typical tests.

A walk across the main road brought the class to King's College Hospital, where on boarding the lift, the ward on the top floor was reached, which is used by the Maudsley Hospital for patients; here some 35 cases in a large airy ward looked serenely comfortable, the balcony at the end of the ward looking over Ruskin Park.

An Instructive Afternoon.

This completed a most instructive afternoon, and Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses learned on this tour something of the very highly technical nature of the treatment of the mentally sick; they realise that this branch of nursing demands of the nurse a real love of her calling, unlimited patience, fine perception, presence of mind and courage.

The members of the Administration Class of the British College of Nurses, in expressing sincere thanks to their

hostess for her great kindness and courtesy, felt more than appreciation of the very useful and instructive insight they had received on this visit, the experience bringing home to them the conviction that a nurse's training should not be complete if such important, skilled and highly technical training as that required for the nursing of mental diseases is omitted.

The Management of the Maudsley Hospital is to be congratulated on the high standard of efficiency in this great centre of healing. To quote an extract from the Medical Superintendent's Report:—

"It is impossible adequately to express the debt which the hospital owes to the matron, Miss Walker, both in respect of her influence in maintaining the standards of the nursing staff and of her enthusiasm for the interests of the patients and her fertility in practical ideas for their benefit."

We feel that the Nursing Profession also owes a debt of gratitude to Miss Walker for her pioneer work in this leading Training School for Nurses, who, supported by her staff, does so much in helping to relieve the suffering of the sorely afflicted by trained and efficient skill.

ALICE STEWART BRYSON.

OF WHAT IS THE NATURE OF NURSING?

A great teacher is rare, but it is one of our tasks to search till we find her, and each, as we find her, will become the "pearl of great price." We have had great teachers in nursing who will always live in our memories. The subject in the curriculum which deals with the principles and practice of nursing requires as its interpreter a teacher with broad knowledge of many disciplines, with deep insight into human needs, and with personal characteristics which inspire her students to think and to work. The principles of nursing weave together all subjects in the curriculum, and it is through the practice of the art of nursing that all primary and related knowledge is applied.

The great teacher in nursing, like the great schoolmaster or the great author, is a rare person. How rare a person is she of whom it might be said, "There is still a touch divine" in her life and work. Such words were said of John Locke, "A singularly attractive personality with a sweet reasonableness of temper and a charming freedom from flaws and defects of character, he is an author whom liking at the first acquaintance, we soon love as a friend." What a priceless reward for any teacher's contribution to the inspiration of his students!

Nursing may not find its reward in the accumulation of wealth, nor yet in the attainment of social prestige, but will find it only in the consciousness that through its influence a contribution is being made to human welfare and happiness. Perchance the "touch divine" may sometimes be revealed through nurses as they go about their work in the hospital wards, or as they travel in and out of the homes of the people.

The prevailing concept of nursing is practical, even sometimes commonplace and literal, but how little of nursing can be explained in these terms. The real depths of nursing can only be made known through ideals, love, sympathy, knowledge, and culture, and expressed through the practice of artistic procedures and relationships. Nursing is "a chapter in the book of life"—human, real, and akin to brotherly love. The nurse is in very truth her "brother's keeper." She knows his strength and his weakness. She shares his hopes and his fears. She feels his elations and his depressions. She listens to the whisper from his innermost soul. Nursing shares in life's prosaic gloom, but also it shares in life's poetic beauty. Of such is the nature and the spirit of nursing.

EFFIE J. TAYLOR, R.N.

(In *L'Infirmière Française*).

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