

ACCOMMODATION FOR CASES OF CHRONIC SICKNESS.

In a Chronic Hospital, treatment is simpler than in an Acute General Hospital, and the Committee therefore consider that the ward unit under the charge of one Sister can contain up to 60 beds.

RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

The treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis has undergone striking development since the War, and many of the hospitals and sanatoria built at that time are inadequate to meet the requirements of treatment as now practised. At the present time local authorities tend to concentrate the treatment of all types of pulmonary tuberculosis in one central sanatorium-hospital instead of maintaining separate small institutions of different types. It is also to be noted that the floor space for beds for patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis (90 square feet for single-bed wards and 80 square feet in other wards) is somewhat greater than the minimum requirement for adults adopted by the Local Government Board before the War. The Committee advise that 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. of the beds should be provided in single-bed wards.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

The Committee recommend joint action by several local authorities to provide one large isolation hospital rather than a number of smaller and less efficient hospitals. To allow adequate classification of the patients the hospital should be built in a number of small one-storey pavilions; there should be a "cubicle block" (a block consisting entirely of single-bed wards) for cases of double infection and of doubtful diagnosis.

MENTAL HOSPITALS AND MENTAL DEFICIENCY COLONIES.

The Committee found universal approval of the provision of combined mental hospitals for both sexes rather than separate hospitals for men and women; these hospitals should unite the characteristics of a hospital and of a residential establishment forming a social unit in which provision is made for medical treatment and nursing, for re-education and nursing, and for exercise and recreation.

The Committee are in general agreement with the views expressed in the Hedley Report on Colonies for Mental Defectives (1931), but suggest certain amendments of detail.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INSTITUTIONS.

Various types of accommodation for aged people are discussed; there appears to be a general agreement amongst those responsible for providing the accommodation that groups of small Cottage Homes are suitable for the less industrial areas, while larger groups of similar Cottage Homes or a single large Home may be considered more appropriate for old people who have been accustomed to living under urban conditions.

Children's Homes should also be in groups of cottages, homes of the "barrack" type being undesirable, and the children should be educated in the local schools with other children of the district rather than in special schools set aside for their use.

The construction of casual wards is also discussed in detail, and the recommendation of the Departmental Committee on the Relief of the Casual Poor, of 1930, in favour of casual wards entirely separate from the institution is endorsed. It is recommended that the wards should be of permanent construction throughout.

BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES.

The relative advantages of open-air and covered swimming baths are discussed. The recommendations concerning the size, layout, plan and equipment of swimming baths, swimming pools and wash-houses form an up-to-date and compact statement of the best current practice.

A LIFE OF DEVOTION TO OTHERS.

MADEMOISELLE L. CHAPTAL.

Her Principal Social Activities.

We have received from Mlle. Marguerite Peltier, Secretary of the late Mademoiselle Chaptal, a booklet relating the principal social activities of Mademoiselle Chaptal during a life devoted to the welfare of others in which she accomplished work in various directions, the fundamental value of which as time goes on will become increasingly apparent.

As the heading to her introduction Mlle. Peltier places the following lines:

L'âme humaine contient des trésors infinis qui n'attendent être employés que l'appel d'une autre âme déjà remplie du feu sacré.

She opens with the words: "The author of these lines is no more. During a long life consecrated to well-doing she was that other soul, filled with a sacred fire, bending with love to those who on earth had need of care, of assistance, of compassion, enlisting as her followers disciples who, having heard her appeal, will continue her work still unachieved, and will, in their turn, enlist the devotion of others in the service of suffering humanity.

"Always, without cessation, she fought for the amelioration of the lot of the labouring class. Her hand extended to obtain the relief of those unhappy ones who crossed her path, her hand extended to relieve the person who came to her with confidence, knowing well that, whatever might be his religion, or his opinions, he would be succoured by her who had drawn from the divine source where faith and love are inseparable; she had learnt to include all the moral and material wretchedness in an entire charity." Such is the estimation in which Mlle. Chaptal was held by her secretary, by whom the booklet was written with the object of putting on record the value of the social rôle of Mlle. Chaptal for nearly half a century. Collaborating with all the great men of her time—doctors, sociologists, politicians of all parties, associated with their work, guided by a profound faith in the vision of sound charity, that which consists in aiding suffering human beings while respecting the ideas of each, sympathising with the material misery, physical or moral, which was the lot of the working classes at the end of the nineteenth century, and of the honest and meritorious poor, too often included in the same opprobrium with the small number of people of charity whom one finds in all society, civilised or not.

Awaiting the day when it will be possible to herself develop a considerable work, the author has wished to show how Mlle. Chaptal—the last grandchild of the Minister of Napoleon I, principal reorganiser of the public and private Assistance of her time—applied the ideas which were dear to her in the "quartier de Plaisance," taken by her as a vast field of experience in the fight against tuberculosis, against infantile mortality. Later she contributed greatly to the reorganisation of the profession of nursing, interested herself in the fight against alcoholism and collaborated in those works conceived in the sacred union in the gloomy days of the Great War. She was not a stranger to any of the social tasks worthy of interesting the spirit.

To the conclusion of her life she set an example to follow. In all the organisations in which she took part, official and private, national and international, Mlle. Chaptal's great preoccupation was always to realise the union between those who had possessions and those who patiently suffered. She herself said in 1935:

La vie exige qu'on aille de l'avant, qu'on gardant du passé ce qu'il a de précieux, ou persevere dans d'effort vers l'avenir.

The first chapter is concerned with social vocation, and the author says that the name of Chaptal evokes for those

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