

Deficiency Service to see that this training was available; and it was in the Colony or Institution that it could best be provided.

All who knew the work that was being done for the mentally defective, said Mr. Bernays, must feel the greatest admiration for those who were devoting themselves to it. Theirs was a heavy and difficult labour. They had to know and train the most diverse types: men and women, adults and children, the most varying grades of mental defect. The task of leading these "mental children" towards responsible citizenship required infinite skill and patience.

It should be a pride to all concerned that this work was being done so well and that it was in fact expanding.

Recent years had seen a most satisfactory progress in the number of mentally defective persons out on licence from institutions and preparing to take their place as useful members of the community. In 1936 there were some 2,400, by the present year the number had risen to more than 3,000. Similarly with the number whom it had been possible to discharge altogether from the control of the Mental Deficiency Acts. The figure was small, but it was increasing year by year.

There had been a steady growth in the accommodation provided by local authorities; in 1937 1,400 new beds had been made available, and progress with schemes for new institutions was satisfactorily maintained. There was, said Mr. Bernays, a clear connection between this development and expansion and the increasing number of the mentally defective who were proving themselves able to live and work outside the walls of the Institution. It was a proof that institutional training did, in fact, overcome some, at least, of the worse handicaps attending mental defect and was in consequence of direct value to the community.

There was, perhaps, a disposition in some quarters to grudge the care and money so expended on the mentally sick.

The answer to such criticism was that this expenditure was recovering, and would continue, he hoped, to an increasing extent, recovering for the community those duties and services which it had a right to expect from each of its members however limited his capacity.

MEDICAL EXHIBITION EXHIBIT.

Doctors' New Treatment for Burns.

Cod liver oil, extracted from fresh livers in "factories" aboard ship as soon as the trawlers land the catch, is now being prescribed externally—as a treatment for burns.

For the first time photographs were on view at the London Medical Exhibition showing the "histories" and results of this new treatment which has been medically prescribed for all types of burns, including those caused by chemicals, such as might arise in aerial warfare.

Perhaps the greatest advantage claimed for it is that it leaves no disfiguring scar.

What may be a new treatment to the majority of doctors has been known to generations of Hull's deep-sea trawler-men.

While fishing in Arctic waters they rarely miss their daily dose of cod liver oil, and if they get a burn, whether at sea or at home, they smother the wound with crude cod liver oil.

The trawler fleet of Hull, Britain's biggest fishing port, is now equipped with facilities for boiling the livers immediately the fish are caught and gutted. The fishermen pay the trawler-owners for the maintenance of the "floating factory," and sell the cod liver oil, which has been the fishermen's perquisite from time immemorial. The buyers of the oil in bulk from the fishermen are the trawler-owners!

THE TREATMENT OF INOPERABLE CANCER.

The *London Cancer Journal**, a journal devoted to the study of every aspect of the cancer problem, contains, in its September issue, an account by Dr. A. C. Magian, B.S., President of the Cancer Society, F.R.G.S., F.R.E.S., etc., of the treatment of inoperable cancer by glandular therapy.

It states editorially that "there is no doubt at all that this method is slowly but surely coming to the fore, and it certainly deserves the closest study by all who are interested in the treatment of malignant disease." As the editor points out, "it may do us all good to devote more of our attention for a time to treatment as apart from pure research. After all, what our patients want is our help to-day: they are not so keenly interested in what may happen in years to come. If glandular therapy is going to help them now, by all means let us get on with it."

"The question of a possible connection between tobacco, alcohol and cancer—is tackled from a matter of fact view, with reference to tobacco and cigarettes. When every other poster in the streets seems to urge us to drink and smoke, and when every social function would seem incomplete without these pleasures of life, it is useful to take stock of our national health as influenced by them. If civilisation as we know it to-day is going to end in the extermination of the best of our race by the development of certain most serious diseases, would it not be as well to alter our civilised methods of life a little?"

The author of this article lays down at its commencement that "all cases of cancer must be treated at the earliest possible moment by operation and radiology if such methods are suitable and available. It is always in the best interests of the patient to advise such treatment and to insist on its being carried out as speedily and efficiently as possible."

"If the case is inoperable, if radium or deep X-rays are unsuitable, or if all these methods have been tried and recurrence has taken place, or if the patient is not in a fit condition for radical treatment, the following method is well worth a trial."

"Out of 2,000 cases, approximately 25 per cent. of apparent cures have been obtained."

THE METHOD.

"(1) The patient is put upon a light diet, avoiding meat, and a very thorough evacuation of the bowels is produced daily; (2) any septic focus is cleared out and general sepsis treated with antistreptococcus serum; (3) blood transfusions are employed; (4) special preparations of zinc, arsenic, gold and selenium are injected; (5) extracts of human placenta and ovary are injected; later, serum taken from patients recovering may be used in the same way; (6) blood tests are used to control the results."

THE RATIONALE.

The Rationale of the method is:—

"First of all we require to rid the system of as much toxic material as possible and for this purpose careful dieting and most thorough washing out of the alimentary tract are necessary."

"It is obvious that the removal of septic foci must be of advantage in any disease if it can be done safely. Also, where there is evidence of general sepsis in the way of pyrexia and rapid pulse the use of antistreptococcus serum may prove of considerable value."

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