

be confused with the application of remedial exercises for the correction of deformities. In orthopædic work, occupations are specially prescribed for the particular movements and posture demanded by the occupational activity, and these movements are, in themselves, remedial exercises, but they are much more; they are movements with a purpose and an interest outside of self, and it is this added interest, or, in other words, the psychological factor, which makes them superior to those exercises which have no other purpose other than the loosening of a joint or the development of a muscle."

In the occupation centres and throughout the hospital we observe these groups:

1. Designing or copying and more interested in the æsthetic effect than the workmanship.
2. Happy to spend hours in fine stitchery or filling an intricate mechanism.
3. Preferring laundry or domestic work, or land work.
4. Studying and inventing new methods in modification.
5. Anxious to learn, but without desire to apply the knowledge acquired.
6. Ready and willing to take part in competitions.
7. Delighting in altruism.
8. Anxious to receive orders and pleased to obey without question.
9. Delighted to be "in charge of something and responsible for its care."

It is obvious that, though much good may be done by employing a patient on the right type of work, skill and discernment are necessary in its choice. Thus, "He should not be asked to study an intricate new process, but the revival of interest in a previously learnt technique, or a long neglected hobby, sometimes acts like a charm. An old gentleman, aged 76, was admitted to hospital, dangerously depressed and terrified by hallucinatory images. In his youth he had been interested in water-colour painting, but had not used a brush for thirty years. Materials were provided and, quite regardless of their merit, his efforts were praised by the nurses and by his visitors. Six months later, happy and confident, he returned home, where he still continues to paint pictures at the age of 82.

"On the other hand, an occupation associated with painful memories is useless for therapeutic purposes. A male patient, aged 64, who had been in hospital 15 years, was depressed and solitary, but fully occupied, and apparently peaceful and settled. He had formerly been a musician, and it was thought that a revival of his interest in music might be beneficial. He was, therefore, taken to a band practice and persuaded to play. The result was disastrous. His condition was seriously aggravated and he remained in a state of agitation for several weeks. It was then learned that many years ago his wife had died by suicide when he was playing at an orchestral concert, and a coroner's jury had censured him for having left her unattended."

The above instances show the benefit which may be derived from a well-chosen occupation for a mentally disturbed patient and the ill results when one is prescribed without sufficient knowledge.

The book is exceedingly interesting and provocative, and, as the first book to be published on this important subject in this country, should receive the serious attention of the nursing profession. M. B.

BABY'S GAS MASK.

Wing-Commander E. J. Hodson reports that a special device for the protection of babies in gas attacks would soon be in mass production. The device had been tried on a tiny baby belonging to a member of the staff of his department, and was a great success. It would be distributed in the same manner as respirators.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

National Fitness Campaign.

The King and Queen are going to Guildhall on February 17th to attend the Lord Mayor's evening reception in connection with the National Fitness Campaign. The King will make a speech to the delegates, and his speech will be relayed to Broadcasting House and broadcast by the B.B.C.

Empire Exhibition to be Opened by the King.

The King has agreed to open the Empire Exhibition at Glasgow on May 3rd. This decision was announced by Lord Elgin, president of the exhibition, of which the King is patron.

Honour for Bride.

The King of Egypt has conferred on the newly wedded Queen the Grand Cordon of the Order of Al Kamal, the highest Egyptian Order for Women.

This is all to the good. Let us hope that in the near future he will use his influence so that women may be present and take part in their own marriage ceremony.

A Gruesome Record.

In the House of Lords the Government has accepted Lord Newton's proposal for a Select Committee of Peers to consider what steps should be taken to reduce the number of casualties on the roads. Over 6,000 deaths and over 226,339 injuries in a year make a gruesome record.

Gold Medal for Miss Jean Batten.

The gold medal of the International Aeronautical Federation has been awarded to Miss Jean Batten, the New Zealand flyer, the Royal Aero Club announces. The award was made for the greatest flying achievement of 1937. There were 22 nations represented at the federation's conference, at which the Royal Aero Club represented Britain.

Women and Civil Aviation.

The Air Ministry, it is announced, are to consider applications from women as well as men for appointments as Operations Officers and Junior Operations Officers in the Department of the Director-General of Civil Aviation.

They will undertake duties in connection with the development of civil air routes.

Ministry of Women.

The Lower House of York Convocation recently discussed the ministry of women, and was asked to concur in a resolution adopted by a committee of the Upper House setting forth the view that if the order of deaconesses was not precisely parallel to any of the three orders open to men it was among the clergy, and not among the laity, that the deaconess ought to be ranked, and that for all religious and ecclesiastical purposes she ought to be regarded and described as a person in holy orders.

The Bishop of Pontefract (the Right Rev. C. R. Hone) moved an amendment, which was carried by a large majority, that the order should not be regarded as belonging to the three holy orders recognised by the Church of England.

The Dean of York (Dr. Bate), who could not be present during this debate, afterwards dissociated himself from what he called the "most disastrous decision of the House."

The House also deleted from the resolution of the committee of the Upper House a recommendation that, where there might be special need, as for instance in girls' schools or women's colleges, deaconesses should have the right to administer the chalice.

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