

her way will be strewn with rarest blooms, and all hearts will be captivated by her charm and simplicity.

In spite of the arduous nature of her tour we sincerely hope that our Queen will greatly enjoy her processional tour through this vast Dominion. No doubt she will enjoy sunshine in contrast to our present Arctic weather, for which we are glad for her sake, and she will see much of tremendous import. We shall follow the news of the Royal visit with the greatest interest.

May our sad farewells soon give way to happy aves.  
May God bless and prosper our Gracious Queen.

G. M. H.

### NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT CENTRAL HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL.

The Minister of Health, Mr. Aneurin Bevan, has written to a wide range of organisations asking them to submit the names of persons regarded as suitable for membership of the Central Health Services Council, which the Minister is shortly to appoint under the National Health Service Act.

The duties of this Council will be "to advise the Minister on such general matters relating to the services provided under this Act, or any services provided by local health authorities in their capacity as such authorities, as the Council think fit and upon any questions referred to them by him relating to those services."

The Act provides that the number of members of the Central Council shall be 41, of whom six shall be ex officio; fifteen shall be medical practitioners of whom two shall be selected for their knowledge of mental illness and mental defectiveness; five shall be persons, not being medical practitioners, with experience in hospital management; five shall be persons, not being medical practitioners, with experience in local government; three shall be dental practitioners; two shall be persons with experience in mental health services, two shall be registered nurses; one shall be a certified midwife; and two shall be registered pharmacists.

Before appointing the members of the Council, it is the duty of the Minister to consult representative organisations, and in his letter Mr. Bevan asks that proposals should be sent to him not later than February 24th.

The letter has been sent to the British Medical Association and the three Royal Medical Colleges, the Society of Medical Officers of Health and the Royal Medico-Psychological Association; the British Hospitals Association, the Association of Voluntary Teaching Hospitals, the Association of Dental Hospitals, the King Edward's Hospital Fund for London and the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust; the County Councils Association, the Association of Municipal Corporations and the London County Council; the National Association for Mental Health and the Mental Hospitals Association; the British Dental Association; the Public Dental Service Association and the Incorporated Dental Society; the Royal College of Nursing, the National Council of Nurses and the Queen's Institute of District Nursing; the College of Midwives; the Pharmaceutical Society, the National Pharmaceutical Union, the Company Chemists' Association and the Guild of Public Pharmacists.

### A NINETIETH BIRTHDAY.

Not for many years has the Editor kept note of her birthday, but so many kind friends appeared to think to be 90 was quite an event, that gifts, and the kindness of letters reminded her of the occasion, that she would indeed be ungracious if she failed to return thanks, which she begs to do, through the connecting link of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which is our truest friend throughout the Nursing World.

### GALLANT LITTLE SNOWDROPS.

High up on the hills, overlooking the grey and cold waters of Tor Bay, whilst venturing on an icy walk, it was brought home to me that the weak things of this world are often used to confound the strong.

A blustering wind was levelling the powdery snow in all directions and the gale was blowing at a terrific pace.

Quite suddenly, from beneath a sheltering tree, there stood revealed the loveliest little cluster of slender snowdrops. Beautiful, and whiter than the surrounding snows, the sight of the little flowers brought a surge of hope and the expectation of better things to come.

Standing out in brave defiance against the Arctic winds, they gently imparted their message of the advent of Spring and the joys of the Summer suns. Slim and erect, with their little heads bent earthwards, their humility blended exquisitely with their pride of being the first to spread the good news. And so the message of these sweetest harbingers of Spring is passed along, and the burden of this wintery phase is made lighter by the vision of such gallant little blossoms.

### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH.

The Rt. Hon. R. A. Butler, M.P., was elected first President of the newly formed National Association for Mental Health at its inaugural meeting in London on February 11th. H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent has consented to be Patron; the Earl of Feversham was elected Chairman; Lady Norman, Vice-Chairman; and Sir Otto Niemeyer, G.B.E., K.C.B., Honorary Treasurer.

The Association results from the amalgamation of three leading voluntary mental health bodies, the Central Association for Mental Welfare, the Child Guidance Council, and the National Council for Mental Hygiene, as recommended by the Feversham Committee on Voluntary Mental Health Services.

The work of the amalgamated bodies in providing medical, educational and social services complementary to the Statutory Services will be carried on and greatly extended in close co-operation with the Government and Local Government authorities concerned. Many new problems, such as those resulting from the upheavals and stresses of war, are to be tackled.

Already large numbers of ex-Service men and women are being helped over the difficulties of re-adjustment to civilian life.

The new Association has been entrusted with the organisation of the International Congress on Mental Health to be held in London next year. Delegates from all over the world will attend, and the meeting is expected to make a valuable contribution towards international co-operation in the task of promoting human welfare and understanding.

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