

Education and Examination.

It was agreed that approval be granted for a scheme of three years' duration between the Cossham Hospital, the Frenchay Joint Hospital, and the Ham Green Hospital, Bristol.

It was agreed that the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich, and the West Norwich Hospital, Norwich, be together approved as one Complete Training School for General Nurses.

Business having been completed, the Council went *in camera* to consider the expenditure incurred by the Council in opening and maintaining the Roll of Assistant Nurses.

Next Meeting of the Council.

The date of the next meeting of the Council was fixed for September 23rd.

School of Nursing Conducted by U.S. Public Health Mission.

THE School of Nursing of the Tubman National Institute of Medical Arts was organised in September, 1946. It was the outgrowth of the desire of His Excellency, President William V. S. Tubman, Republic of Liberia, in an effort to improve the health conditions in this Republic that this School was started. Prior to 1946, there were two schools of nursing operating in Monrovia. One at the Liberian Government Hospital established in 1927, the other at the Carrie V. Dyer Memorial Hospital established in 1929. The Carrie V. Dyer Memorial Hospital is under the auspices of the Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention of America. Both of these hospitals and the Nurses' Training programmes were closed during the period of 1932-1935.

In 1944, President Tubman requested the aid of the U.S. Department of State in developing nursing education in Liberia. As a result of this request, the Division of Cultural Co-operation of the U.S. Department of State sent two American nurses to Liberia. With the assistance of these two American nurses, a unified programme of instruction was started for the two schools of nursing in Monrovia. These activities were under the supervision of the Director of the U.S. Public Health Mission in Liberia.

After eighteen months of service these two American nurses returned to the States and two other nurses were sent out to replace them by the same organisation in 1946. Since July, 1947, the school of nursing has been financed by the U.S. Public Health Service with the support of the Liberian Government.

In co-operation with the medical and nursing staffs of the two hospitals and health agencies in Monrovia, these two nurses developed the unified school of nursing. It is one of the schools of the Tubman National Institute of Medical Arts and under the direction and supervision of the U.S. Public Health Mission in Liberia.

The students are admitted to the school of nursing through the affiliating hospitals. These hospitals are responsible for the maintenance of the students throughout their period of training. Their clinical experience is obtained through the two hospitals, clinics of the Bureau of Public Health and Sanitation, Republic of Liberia and the U.S. Public Health Mission in Liberia. It is hoped that in the near future investigation of other facilities in the area can be made, and, if possible, utilised.

Through the joint efforts of the U.S. Public Health Mission and the Liberian Government, a modern nursing education building has been erected and should have been ready for occupancy in August, 1949.

There is a wonderful opportunity for service here in Liberia and this U.S. Public Health Service Mission has received cordiality and support from all segments of the Liberian people.

Book Review.

THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MASSAGE AND MEDICAL GYMNASTICS.

By Beatrice M. Goodall-Copestake.*

THE value of a work that has earned the demand for the printing of its seventh edition speaks for itself, and the perusal of "The Theory and Practice of Massage and Medical Gymnastics" leaves us in no doubt as to the professional appeal of this excellent volume.

In her preface the author points out that the term Physio-therapist largely replaces "Masseuse" and "Masseur" in the text, for the name has been universally adopted, and in the present revision changes have been made with the object of bringing all sections up to date. Of extraordinary interest is the opening chapter, in which the history of Massage is introduced and the student will learn that "in a primitive form . . . Massage is probably as old as civilisation itself"; and that the word "Massage" is probably derived from the Arabic *mass* or *mas'h*—"to press softly"; though some authorities have attributed its origin to the Greek word *massein* "to knead." In its present form we have it from the French *masser*—"to shampoo."

"The use of various manipulations and movements can be traced down the ages for many centuries. Three thousand years before the Christian era the Chinese had a system of gymnastics and massage, records of which are found in the ancient writings of Kong Fu. . . ." "Among the Ancient Greeks and Romans Massage was in an advanced stage of development. Homer, about the year 1000 B.C., tells us in the Odyssey that beautiful women rubbed and anointed war-worn heroes to rest and refresh them."

This chapter records also—that it was not until the second century A.D. that a famous physician at Pergamos and Rome named Galen discovered that arteries contained blood; previously the ancients believed the arteries were filled with air.

Thus this enthralling chapter brings the history of this important art of healing, through the Middle Ages, up to the present day.

Massage and Medical Gymnastics is a most valuable volume for the student, the very fine illustrations, 147 in number, demonstrating classified movements, conditions of fractures and their treatment; the methods employed in various exercises are most graphic and could not be more descriptive.

Referring to head massage, we venture to express the opinion of one of long experience in this work—that of the massage movements for head treatment—"Hacking" is the least soothing.

The author of this very comprehensive edition on Theory and Practice of Massage and Medical Gymnastics is to be congratulated on its wide appeal which can only be the result of her art in imparting to the student the knowledge and her duty required to become proficient in Physio-therapy.

A.S.B.

What to Read.

BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIRS.

- "The Quintessence of G.B.S." S. Winsten.
- "The Shining Life and Death of Lord Edward Fitzgerald." John Lindsey.
- "Titus Oates." Jane Lane.

FICTION.

- "The Old Bank House." Angela Thirkell.
- "Gay Mistress." Joy Packer.
- "The Sheltering Sky." Paul Bowles.
- "Cordelia." Winston Graham.

*H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd., 136, Gower Street, London, W.C.1. Price 2/1/- net.

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