

and that their output compares very favourably with that of sighted workers alongside them.

The Report deprecates any suggestion that "things should be made easier for the blind worker." He will respond better, it says, if he is expected to conform to the normal routine and is treated as having equal responsibilities with his sighted colleagues.

Professional and Administrative Occupations.—Starting with the fact that in 1880 a blind man (Henry Fawcett) became Postmaster-General, the Report points to the openings for the employment of the blind in administrative occupations, both in governmental and local service, and in private business.

It mentions that in the law world there are at present 34 solicitors, seven barristers, and six articulated clerks who are blind.

There are also 61 Ministers of Religion and a few school-teachers who are blind, as well as a number of distinguished university professors and lecturers.

Other Occupations.—Information is given about blind physiotherapists, "home teachers" for the blind (many of whom are themselves blind), and musicians (among whom it is estimated that there are 350 blind players of musical instruments, accompanists, conductors, etc.).

An outline is given of what has been done—largely by St. Dunstan's—in the way of helping blind persons to open and run shops or other businesses on their own account.

Employment in rural occupations, including poultry farming, is also reviewed.

Blind Adolescents.

An important chapter of the Report is devoted to the training of blind adolescents, including those who have been totally blind from birth and those who have become blind at an early age. Hitherto, the education and training of blind children (which is the responsibility of the education authorities up to the age of 21 in England and Wales, and 18 in Scotland) have been directed primarily to preparing them for "sheltered" employment. The Report gives reasons for suggesting that further consideration should be given to their education and training for "open" employment.

Conclusion.

This Report constitutes the first comprehensive study of the employment of the blind since the Report of the Departmental Committee of the Local Government Board, 1914-17. It is likely to be regarded for some time to come as the standard text book on a problem which, though not imposing numerically, is nevertheless a human problem of no little difficulty.

The immense progress which has been made in the last 30 years or more is clearly evident from the Report. In itself the document is a striking demonstration of the decline, almost to vanishing point, of the old notion that what a blind man or woman wants is pity and charity, not work. A couple of sentences from the Report sum up the modern view:—

"The blind person still remains an individual, with his own life history and his own temperament, aptitudes and interests. The blind person is, in fact, very much like everyone else, except that he does not see"; and

"The knowledge that he is a useful and efficient worker is an important factor in helping him to master the disadvantages of his blindness."

This notice was dictated to, and the stencils for duplication were cut by, a blind shorthand-typist on the staff of the Headquarters of the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

Nursing Echoes.

ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT in the press of the engagement of Miss Clare H. Alexander, the Matron of the London Hospital to Sir John Mann, our warmest congratulations go out to the coming bride.

Miss Alexander in many years of brilliant work, apart from her onerous official position, and as a prominent member of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, has earned the gratitude and affection of Nurses for her outstanding leadership for the independence of the Nursing Profession.

Though regretting our loss in this union, we wish Miss Alexander every happiness in her new life.

A RECEPTION has been planned by Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps (for Q.A.R.A.N.C.) serving officers and retired Q.A.R.A.N.C. and Q.A.I.M.N.S. at Grocers' Hall by kind permission of the Grocers' Company, on April 20th, 1951, from 6-8 p.m.

Tickets 15s. each and other particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Q.A.R.A.N.C., Officers' Club, Room 125, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London, W.1.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES has received the following notice of a Congress from the International Council of Nurses, which is in membership with the World Federation for Mental Health:—

Notice of a Congress sponsored by the World Federation for Mental Health, to be held in Mexico City from December 11th to December 19th, 1951.

Nurses who are members of the I.C.N. through their National Nurses Association may participate in this Congress; they should apply to the headquarters in London of the W.F.M.H., and should support their application with a letter of introduction from their National Nurses Association. The address of the Federation is as follows:

Miss E. M. Thornton, M.A., Secretary,
World Federation for Mental Health,
19, Manchester Street, London, W.1.

Information concerning associate membership of the World Federation for Mental Health can also be obtained from the above.

THE MEETING OF THE Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland will be held at 2.30 p.m. on April 26th, 1951.

It is proposed to hold an open professional conference in the evening following the business meeting. Details of this will be circularised to members of the Committee in due course, together with the place at which these meetings will be held.

Orders for copies of the March issue of the Quarterly News Letter should now be sent in. These are 6d. each or 2s. annual subscription and may be obtained from Miss F. Rowe, Executive Secretary, 17, Portland Place, London, W.1.

THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE have announced particulars of the prize essay competitions for

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