

Mr. T. M. GARDINER, Chairman of the Board of Management of the Jordanburn Hospital, in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Adamson, stated that their enterprise had created world-wide interest, Prof. Robertson having received letters of congratulation and communications asking for information from distant parts of the earth.

The proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to the Lord Provost, on the motion of Sheriff Brown.

[Summary of reports published in the *Scotsman* and *Glasgow Herald* for October 15, 1929.]

CONFERENCE ON MENTAL HEALTH.

A Conference on Mental Health, convened by a Joint Committee of the National Council for Mental Hygiene and the Tavistock Square Clinic, was held in the Central Hall, Westminster, on October 30–November 2, 1929.

The European and American Leagues and Committees of Mental Hygiene had been invited to send representatives, and though only two were able to do so—the Belgian, who sent Dr. F. Sano, of Ghel, and the Swedish, who were represented by Dr. Josef Lundahl, of Wisby—messages of goodwill and congratulation were received from Austria (Dr. Pilcz), Germany (Dr. Sommer), Italy (Dr. Ferrari), Russia (Dr. Rosentein), Spain (Dr. Rubiano), and Switzerland (Dr. Répond). Mr. Clifford Beers, the Founder and General Secretary of the American National Committee for Mental Hygiene, sent warm good wishes and regrets that he could not be present, and the Massachusetts Society for Mental Hygiene wrote expressing its great interest in the programme.

Amongst those attending the Conference were visitors from Australia, Tasmania, the United States, Canada, India, South Africa (the Chairman of the Johannesburg Committee for Mental Hygiene), and a party of students from the International League of Red Cross Societies, representing nearly every country in Europe. People were present from most of the cities, large towns and country areas in England, and many came from Scotland. The audiences were not only cosmopolitan in character, but were also representative of every aspect of social work—doctors, nurses, teachers (both elementary and secondary), magistrates, probation officers, social workers of all kinds, members of Education and Public Health Authorities, School Care Committees, Boards of Guardians, etc.

The Inaugural Meeting, held on Wednesday, October 30, at 8.30 p.m., was presided over by Viscount Brentford. The Minister of Health (the Rt. Hon. Arthur Greenwood, M.P.), sent a cordial message of good wishes. A message was also read from the Rt. Hon. David Lloyd George.

The CHAIRMAN, in his opening remarks, emphasized the progress that had been made of late years in the treatment of mental disorders, and the urgent need at the present day for preventive work. He expressed the hope that the next few years would see the establishment of a Chair of Mental Hygiene at every University and Medical School.

Sir MAURICE CRAIG (Chairman of the Council) spoke of the history of the mental hygiene movement, and laid stress upon the fact that it was pre-eminently a layman's movement, and had, in fact, been initiated by a layman, Mr. Clifford Beers of New York. He emphasized the need for the reform of the Lunacy Laws, and of the importance of increased facilities for the treatment of early symptoms of mental disturbance, particularly in childhood. Finally he spoke of the proposal to extend the scope of the Tavistock Square Clinic by the establishment of an Institute of Medical Psychology.

Mr. LAURENCE BROCK (Chairman of the Board of Control) spoke of the need for a kinder and more understanding attitude on the part of the general public with regard to mental patients. Legislation was urgently needed to enable mental hospitals to treat voluntary patients, and thus to bring the treatment of mental illness into line with that of physical illness.

Canon T. W. Pym spoke with great appreciation of the admirable work done for early mental and nervous cases by the Tavistock Square Clinic, and Dr. LETTIE FAIRFIELD took as her particular subject that of child guidance.

On Thursday, October 31, the first session was devoted to a consideration of "Sex Education." A great deal of interest was aroused by this subject, and the hall was filled to its utmost capacity. Mr. W. H. FYFE (Headmaster of Christ's Hospital), presided, and the speakers were: Miss GERALDINE COSTER (Principal of Wychwood School, Oxford) who gave a most interesting and illuminating address based on her practical experience of schoolgirls; Dr. HUGH CRICHTON-MILLER (Hon. Director of the Tavistock Square Clinic), who discussed the attitude of the adult on the question; and Mrs. NEVILLE-ROLFE (General Secretary of the British Social Hygiene Council), who spoke of the need for simple and constructive teaching on the biological and physiological development of the individual in schools.

A session, principally for magistrates and probation officers, was held on "The Working of the Juvenile Courts," LADY EMMOTT presiding.

Mrs. BARROW CADBURY, of Birmingham, spoke from the magistrates' standpoint, and gave a brief survey of the attitude taken by the law towards child criminals from the tenth century to the present day. Miss CLEMENCE PAINE (Probation Officer at the Shoreditch Juvenile Court) followed, speaking on the subject from the angle of the probation officer, illustrating her points by examples taken from her experience of probation work.

The last session of the day dealt with "The Personal Equation in Industry," and was presided over by Sir CHARLES (now Lord) WAKEFIELD. In his opening remarks he drew attention to the fact that employers were coming to realize more and more that the psychological factor had to be considered in industrial conditions. To treat men as machines was not only inhuman, but economically wasteful.

Dr. MILLAIS CULPIN, who is engaged upon research work for the Industrial Fatigue Research Board, gave a most interesting account of the study which was being made into the mental and nervous reactions of 1,500 workers of all ages and classes, showing how symptoms might be aggravated by unsuitable conditions, and how necessary it was to distinguish between nervous symptoms and nervous disability. He estimated that 25% of workers suffered from nervous symptoms which seriously impaired their happiness and efficiency.

Prof. WINIFRED CULLIS (London [Royal Free Hospital] School of Medicine for Women) devoted her remarks to the work done being by the National Institute of Industrial Psychology in the realm of vocation guidance.

The first session on Friday, November 1, was devoted to a consideration of "The Place of Mental Hygiene in Social and Public Health Work." Sir GEORGE NEWMAN presided. In addition to the Chairman the speakers were:

Dr. H. P. NEWSHOLME (Medical Officer of Health for Birmingham), Miss E. M. LAWRENCE (Chief Social Worker at the Child Guidance Clinic), Miss HESTER VINEY (of the College of Nursing).

Dr. CYRIL NORWOOD (Headmaster of Harrow School) took the chair at the session on "The Child and the Parent," and in his opening remarks pointed out that the relationship between parent and child must necessarily be one of "give and take," and modern psychology tended to blame the parent for whatever went wrong in the child's upbringing.

The Rev. L. W. GRENSTED (of University College, Oxford) emphasized the fact that the natural environment of the child was the home, and that despite the modern tendency of the State to undertake the education and training of children, the responsibility lay with the parents.

Dr. A. HELEN BOYLE spoke of the importance of training in adaptability in early life.

At the evening session on "Delinquency—a Problem in Mental Hygiene," the chair was taken by Mr. ALEXANDER MAXWELL, Chairman of the Prison Commission, and Mr. CLARKE HALL, Metropolitan Magistrate at Old Street Police Court and at the Shoreditch Juvenile Court, was the principal speaker. He traced the gradual improvement in the public attitude towards the delinquent from the days when a child was hanged for a piece of destructive mischief to the present day, when the idea of reformation was gradually taking the place of retribution. There could, however, be no true justice without taking into consideration the circumstances of environment and heredity, and there was, as yet, no provision for the complete

knowledge of these in English law. Mr. Clarke Hall dwelt on the importance of the juvenile courts from the sociological point of view, since most habitual criminals began their anti-social careers at an early age, and he urged the necessity for expert medical and psychological advisers in connection with every court.

Dr. HUGH CRICHTON-MILLER, Dr. R. D. GILLESPIE and Dr. W. A. POTTS each spoke briefly of their own experiences of the problems connected with delinquency.

The final meeting, on Saturday, November 2, took the form of a discussion for parents and teachers on "The Problem Child at Home and in School." The chair was taken by Dr. RALPH CROWLEY (Senior Medical Officer of the Board of Education), who spoke briefly on the importance of co-operation between the home and the school, so that the child's life should not be episodic, but form a harmonious whole in which he might develop mentally on sound lines.

Miss E. MILDRED NEVILL (Psychologist to Frensham Heights School) dwelt on three main groups of problem children—disturbers of the peace, reality shirkers and moral offenders.

Dr. HAMILTON-PEARSON suggested that modern methods of education created problem children by insisting on a uniform system for all types of minds.*

SCOTTISH ASYLUMS PATHOLOGICAL SCHEME.

THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1928.

(Abstract.)

There has been a further increase in the amount of routine work performed in the Laboratory, the number of specimens reported on having reached 237. Visits have been paid by the Pathologist to several of the contributing hospitals.

Dr. Reynolds's scheme for increased cooperation between his course and the clinical teaching of neurology in Edinburgh is now being carried out. Drs. David Orr and James K. Slater joined with Dr. Reynolds in conducting a combined course in Neurology, including the Anatomy and Physiology of the Central Nervous System and Pathology.

Research has been continued on "The Paths of Infection of the Central Nervous System." No further individual cases will be published, but the results obtained will be incorporated in the monograph which is in course of preparation. Drs. Reynolds and Slater are also continuing their experimental research on the healing of lesions of the brain.

Several financial grants have been promised for the ensuing year. For the year under review there have been grants from the Medical Research Council, Carnegie Trust and Moray Fund, and with these the total revenue amounted to £1,968 8s. 10d. The expenditure was £1,192 9s. 4d., the credit balance £775 19s. 6d., and the surplus on the year's working £86 10s.

Dr. R. B. Campbell, who was Secretary and Treasurer for fourteen years, resigned at the last Annual Meeting. Both the Board and Dr. Reynolds express their indebtedness to him, and their keen regret at his retirement. Dr. W. D. Chambers has been appointed in his place, and the other members of the Executive Committee are Dr. C. J. Shaw, Chairman, and Drs. Douglas McRae, W. M. Buchanan, Ex-Provost Stark, Prof. J. Lorrain Smith, Drs. T. R. Ronaldson and R. B. Campbell.

* *The Proceedings of the Conference on Mental Health*, edited at the request of the Joint Committee by J. R. Lord, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P.E., will shortly be published by Messrs. Adlard & Son, Ltd., 21, Hart Street, London, W.C. 1, and may be had on the order of any Bookseller or from the Offices of the National Council for Mental Hygiene, 78, Chandos House, Palmer Street, London, S.W. 1, or from the Tavistock Square Clinic, 51, Tavistock Square, London, W.C. 1.