

He proposed the toast of the Visiting Committee of the Hospital, and coupled with it the name of Dr. Dove Cormac.

Dr. DOVE CORMAC, in response, said that unfortunately the Chairman of the Hospital had been unable to be present that day on account of ill-health, and the other members of the Committee were unavoidably absent, as they had other meetings to attend. They much regretted their inability to be present. On their behalf he expressed a cordial welcome to the President and members of the Association; the Visiting Committee would feel gratified that the meeting had been so successful. They were proud of the hospital, and they took a great interest in it and did all they could to help forward the work which was going on. He also wished to acknowledge his indebtedness to his colleagues and the staff generally, who supported him whole-heartedly in the work. This meeting would do the staff a great deal of good, as they would feel that they were doing something worth seeing and knowing, and would be encouraged thereby to make even greater efforts for the patients.

He felt much indebted to Col. Lord for his kind remarks.

On the previous evening members dined together at the Queen's Hotel, Manchester.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES.

The Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, S.E. 5.—Lectures and Practical Courses of Instruction for a Diploma of Psychological Medicine. Course X, 1927. Part II.

(1) Eight lectures on the Psychoneuroses. By Bernard Hart, M.D., F.R.C.P. University College Hospital, on Mondays at 3.30 and 5 p.m., commencing May 9.

(2) Eight lectures on Morbid Psychology. By Edward Mapother, M.D., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., on Wednesdays at 2.30 and 4 p.m., commencing April 6.

(3) Four lectures on the Pathology of Mental Diseases. By F. Golla, F.R.C.P., followed by four demonstrations in Pathological Anatomy, by Charles Geary. On Fridays at 2.30 p.m., commencing May 6.

(4) Two lectures on the Legal Relationships of Insanity and Treatment. By C. Hubert Bond, D.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P. On Mondays at 4 p.m., April 25 and May 2.

(5) Six lectures on the Practical Aspect of Mental Deficiency. By F. C. Shrub-sall, M.D., F.R.C.P. On Tuesdays at 2.30 p.m., commencing March 15, omitting April 19.

(6) Four lectures on Crime and Insanity. By W. Norwood East, M.D. On Tuesdays at 2.30 p.m., commencing May 3.

(7) Three lectures on Therapeutics. By A. A. W. Petric, M.D., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S. On Fridays at 2.30 p.m., commencing March 18.

(8) Five demonstrations in Clinical Psychiatry. By Edward Mapother, M.D., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S. On Wednesdays at 2.30 p.m., commencing April 27. (Fee 1 guinea payable at the hospital.)

(9) Twelve Clinical Demonstrations in Neurology. Six by F. Golla, F.R.C.P. On Thursdays at 2.30 p.m., commencing March 17, at the Hospital for Paralysis and Epilepsy, Maida Vale. Six by F. M. R. Walshe, D.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P. On Thursdays at 2.30 p.m., commencing April 28, at the National Hospital for Paralysis, Queen Square.

(10) Two lectures on Abnormalities of the Fundus Oculi. By R. Foster Moore, M.A., F.R.C.S. On Mondays at 2.30 p.m., April 25 and May 2.

(11) Four demonstrations with Practical Instruction in Laboratory Methods. By S. A. Mann, B.Sc., F.I.C. On Mondays at 2.30 p.m., commencing March 14. Fees: For whole of Part II, £10 10s.; for one single series of lectures, £2 2s.

Inquiries as to lectures, etc., should be addressed to "The Director of the Central Pathological Laboratory, Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, S.E. 5."

The Fellowship of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W. 1, will collect fees from, and issue admission tickets to, medical men intending to take the course who are introduced by the Fellowship.

In addition to the special lectures and demonstrations of the above course, there is opportunity for clinical experience and instruction available at the Hospital. In particular there are a limited number of appointments available as clinical

assistants ; service in this capacity (either whole time or part time) is recognized by the various examining bodies as constituting the clinical experience required by the regulations for the Diploma. Applications and inquiries regarding these clinical facilities should be made to the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital.

National Hospital, Queen Square.—A Post-Graduate Course on Diseases of the Nervous System will be held at the above hospital from May 9 to July 15, 1927.

The general course will consist of Clinical Lectures and Demonstrations ; teaching in the Out-Patient Department ; and Pathological Lectures and Demonstrations. The Fees for this course will be £5 5s.

A course of Lectures on the Anatomy and Physiology of the Nervous System will be arranged if there are sufficient applicants. Fee £2 2s.

A course of Clinical Demonstrations chiefly on Methods of Examination of the Nervous System will be given. Fee £2 2s.

Tickets entitling to attend the Out-Patients' Clinic only (£2 2s. for 3 months) may be obtained from the Secretary.

Applications should be addressed to the Secretary, Medical School, National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, Queen Square, London, W.C. 1.

QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS FOR NURSES.

THE qualities needed for looking after the sick are largely temperamental, and of numerous women it has been said that they were born nurses. This means that nursing must always be a vocation—that it is not a mere trade in which the most skilful are necessarily the most successful ; and the distinction is especially important to remember now that State examinations have to be passed before a nurse can enter her profession. It is not enough to be born, she must be registered as well ; and though this is admittedly desirable, it introduces a principle which may easily be carried too far. A qualifying examination is always dangerous, because it lays emphasis on certain attributes in the candidate, and it is necessary to be careful that these attributes shall be those on which efficiency depends. There are special reasons, moreover, for care in choosing examinational standards for nurses. The first is that since registration was devised as a means of raising the status of the nursing profession, there is a risk of the standards being set too high by people who have in mind an ideal which is for the time being unattainable ; any new mechanism of progress is liable at first to over-use. The second reason is that at the present time there is a shortage of candidates for the nursing profession, and it would be sad if either the qualifying examinations, the study required for them, or the conditions of training entailed, were regarded as a bar to the service by girls who were otherwise suitable. The third reason, which has been indicated already, is that knowledge is on the whole less important in nursing than are temperament, health, and the kind of practical ability which either is inborn or comes with experience. Training and book-learning are useful supplements, but the public should not be encouraged to think that an aptitude for acquiring theoretical knowledge is an essential part of the nurse's equipment.

These reflections arise from perusal of the examination papers recently set by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. In the Preliminary Examination held on February 1 the candidates were probationers of one year's standing, and in their first paper they were invited to answer three of the following questions, including one from each section :

A. Anatomy.—(1) Give a short anatomical description of the knee-joint. (2) What parts of the body receive their blood-supply through the innominate artery ? (3) Describe briefly the cavity of the pharynx, and the various openings which communicate with it.

B. Physiology.—(1) Describe the various kinds of blood-corpuscles. What do you know of their functions ? (2) How does the body obtain its store of glycogen, and what are its uses ? (3) What are the functions of the lymphatic vessels ?

Most of these questions might be asked in examinations for the highest medical and surgical degrees, and it must be supposed that the Council's examiners are content to receive very simple and dogmatic answers. The candidates, however, have little assurance of this, and anxiety will not be diminished by turning to the