

most varied character, and are of the utmost practical importance. It is to be hoped that Dr. Davis, in any future extension of this admirable research, will endeavour to obtain some information on this head. Such facts have a great bearing on the extended domain of sex, and on its relationship to the whole of life.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

7. Mental Hospital Administration.

- (1) *Some Problems of Hospital Personnel.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, October, 1923.) Heyman, M. B.
- (2) *The New Saint Elizabeth's Hospital.* (*Ibid.*, October, 1923.) White, W. A.

The first of these papers was read at the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association, and the ensuing discussion indicates that the problems in regard to staff are, if anything, more acute there than in this country, and that in many cases we have advanced further in meeting the desire of the staff for better conditions. There is apparently a great lack of suitable applicants, partly due to more restricted immigration. Difficulties in obtaining medical staff are influenced by the fact that the medical graduations are only 35 *per cent.* of those prevailing before the war. The problem is a large one, as there are about 7,000 persons employed in the New York State Hospitals. The principal points militating against suitable applicants are the intrinsic unpopularity of the work, and the fact that the standard of housing, food and facilities for recreation is below that provided by the large industrial corporations. A twelve hours' day is worked in a number of the hospitals, although Dr. Wm. A. White stated that at his hospital he had introduced the eight hours' day with satisfactory results. The author and other speakers emphasized the need for adequate commutation allowances to enable a considerable number of the personnel to live out—a condition which has been conceded to a fair extent in this country. The necessity was also emphasized for stirring up public opinion, and inducing the controlling organizations to take legislative and administrative action, which seems to indicate that in America, as elsewhere, professional opinion in favour of reform is generally in advance of that of the lay controlling bodies.

In the second paper Dr. Wm. A. White describes the organization of the work at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington. The number of patients is about 4,000 and the medical staff number about 50. He expresses an emphatic belief in large institutions, adducing, among other reasons, the advantage that the best of the various services is spread over a large number of cases, which enables the maintenance rate to be kept within reasonable limits. The hospital is divided into a number of sections, each controlled by a senior assistant, whose duties are mainly administrative; these officers work in association with two clinical directors. In addition there

are departments of internal medicine, clinical psychiatry and laboratories, each under a chief or director. The department of internal medicine deals with physical illness, and is subdivided into medical and surgical—acute and chronic—and is associated with other activities, such as X-rays, etc.

The advantage of the system appears to be that a number of experienced specialized medical officers work at purely professional problems and are relieved from administration, and the result is seen in the number of papers and researches which he mentions in preparation or recently published. In addition a course was conducted for those preparing to work with the Veterans' Bureau. This course appears to resemble those conducted in this country for diplomas in psychological medicine.

A. A. W. PETRIE.

Part IV.—Notes and News.

MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

THE usual Quarterly Meeting of the Association was held at the Rooms of the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, W. 1, on Thursday, November 20, 1924, the President (Dr. M. J. Nolan) in the Chair.

The Council and Committees met earlier in the day.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting, having already appeared in the Journal, were taken as read. They were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

OBITUARY.

The late Sir Frederick Needham, M.D.

THE PRESIDENT said he was sorry that the first duty falling upon him was to refer to the death of two Commissioners of the Board of Control. In Sir Frederick Needham the Association had lost its *doyen*, and at one time a very active member and a past President. He retired not very long ago and had succeeded in living to a good ripe age.

The late Arthur Hill Trevor, Esq., B.A.

The decease of Mr. Trevor, also a Commissioner of the Board of Control, happened with such suddenness that it was very difficult for them to realize that he had actually passed away. Members were well aware how intimately he had associated himself with the work of the Association, and had endeared himself to all. Members would no doubt show their respect and sympathy in the usual way.

Those present, in silence, signified their deep respect by rising in their places.

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

THE PRESIDENT said the appointment of examiners for the Mental Nursing Certificate of the General Nursing Council of England and Wales had been considered by the Council, and it had been unanimously agreed that the names of three doctors and one matron should be submitted, together with some alternative names. The General Nursing Council had the duty of appointing the examiners, and he did not anticipate that any difficulty would arise, and it was satisfactory to have reached a solution on a subject which had occasioned much anxiety.