

economics seem to me to be in what we would describe as "a confusional state," and more immediate beneficial practical results might, I think, accrue from liberally supported medico-psychological investigations.

I should sing my *Nunc Dimittis* more complacently if I saw a worthy Medico-Psychological Institute in London, but however that may be I must sing my *Nunc Dimittis* as regards this long speech, once more thanking you with the utmost cordiality for your great kindness, for the heirloom you have presented to me, and for the delightful souvenir of which you have made Lady Crichton-Browne the recipient. I would express the hope that all the bright young things I see around this table may reach their ninetieth birthday, and may on the occasion be hospitably entertained by the Royal Medico-Psychological Association. (Loud applause.)

Colonel ERNEST WHITE, C.B.E. : Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I wish to propose a toast which I am sure will be well received by you all, and it is that of our worthy President, Dr. Good. (Applause.) I first met him, I think, some time in the '90's when I went to stay at Littlemore for two days. He was then Assistant Medical Officer there; I little thought at that time that he would one day occupy the chair of this Association; and we all congratulate him on having achieved that honour. He has done splendid work in his special line of our branch of medicine, and I hope he will long continue in that work.

I suppose that the reason I am called upon to propose this toast is that I am the senior past-President of the Association, after Sir James Crichton-Browne, present to-night. There were 25 Presidents between Sir James and myself, and, unfortunately, I think only two of them are now alive, namely Dr. David Nicholson and Dr. McDowall. Afterwards there is a long list following me, and we hope all will achieve long life.

I retired early in life, that is to say in my fifty-fourth year, and I have enjoyed the years since, having been employed usefully. I have never been idle, and that is one of the most important considerations with regard to anticipating a good old age. I am in my eighty-first year, and Sir James has given me such a fine example that I shall endeavour to follow it, to the best of my ability.

With regard to our President, we are more than satisfied with the way in which he has discharged the various duties of his office and brought further glory to our Association, and I am sure he will continue to do so in the future.

You have had such long and perfect speeches to-night that I am sure you do not want to hear much from me. Therefore I conclude by saying we wish our President long life and health, and that he will achieve a good old age, such as Sir James has achieved, and we wish him every success in the post he holds. (Applause.)

The PRESIDENT : You have heard me talk quite enough to-night; I can only thank you for the way in which you have pledged my health.

ST. LUKE'S FOUNDATION : WOODSIDE NERVE HOSPITAL.

OPENING BY H.R.H. PRINCESS HELENA VICTORIA.

SINCE the closing, in 1916, of the old hospital building in Old Street, the Ancient Foundation of St. Luke's has carried on the following activities: The provision of an institute for private mental nurses, the maintenance of the old convalescent home at Gerrard's Cross, and, since 1923, the staffing of two wards for functional and early mental cases at the Middlesex Hospital. Meanwhile the Governors, after considering how best they could apply the resources of their charity to modern needs, decided to build, on an accessible site in the London district, a hospital entirely devoted to these cases, under disinterested yet unofficial management. The result is the Woodside Nerve Hospital, which was opened on November 8, 1930, by H.R.H. Princess Helena Victoria.

The ceremony was performed in the Board Room. Lord BLANESBURGH, Treasurer of the Hospital, referred to the illustrious history of St. Luke's Charity, which was founded in 1750, and said that there had been two great successive

hospitals. The first was in Moorfields, and the second was the well-known hospital in Old Street, which continued its beneficent work until 1916, when it was taken over by the Government for the use of the Post Office. The main purpose of the charity in its early days had been to provide for the poor. Now its work was rather to provide for educated people of limited means who were proud enough not to desire to accept assistance if they were able to provide to any extent for their own maintenance. By means of the available resources of the charity and with the assistance of larger payments by patients who were able to afford them, they might be able to receive deserving cases with no resources.

Sir JAMES PURVES-STEWART said that for some years past there had been a close and useful association between the Hospital of St. Luke and the great hospital of Middlesex, in connection with the diagnosis and treatment of early cases of functional nervous disorder.

Princess HELENA VICTORIA formally declared the Hospital open and wished it every possible success.

After Lord MACMILLAN had proposed, and Lord SANDHURST had seconded a vote of thanks to Her Royal Highness, the latter made a tour of inspection of the Hospital.

Description of the Hospital.

(From the Official Programme.)

The Hospital stands in grounds of some 6½ acres, occupying an elevated situation rising to the north at Muswell Hill, N., and overlooks Highgate Woods. All the buildings face the south. It is easily accessible by train or omnibus from any part of the Metropolis, the time taken in a journey from the centre of London being approximately half an hour.

The main entrance is in Woodside Avenue.

The grounds comprise open lawns and flower gardens, a small bowling green, and a putting green. Sufficient ground is reserved for the occupation of patients who may be interested in gardening.

THE BUILDINGS.

The centre of the site in the front is occupied by the administration block, which is flanked by two houses, that on the east constituting the nurses' home, that on the west providing quarters for the Matron, a physician, and the domestic staff.

Behind these three buildings are disposed in a semicircle the two ward blocks, which together afford accommodation for fifty patients, *i.e.*, thirty women and twenty men.

Behind the wards, and midway between them, stands the treatment block, while to the west of this are arranged the kitchens, stores, and boiler house.

All the buildings are connected, the one with another, by covered ways. They are from the designs of Mr. T. A. Pole, F.R.I.B.A.

THE WARDS.

Each block consists of two floors, and is, except as to the number of beds provided therein, practically the counterpart of the other; and in the case of each block the two floors are identical.

Each floor comprises bedrooms, dining room, sitting room, bathrooms and examination room.

The majority of the bedrooms are single rooms.

Each bedroom is provided with wide folding doors opening directly on to a broad verandah, on to which the bed may conveniently be wheeled.

Private sitting-room accommodation is provided.

Hot and cold water is laid on to each bedroom, and the bathroom accommodation is ample, one of the baths being adapted for continuous bath treatment.

Large recreation rooms for men, with a full-size billiard table, are provided in another part of the buildings.

The furniture has been designed and selected with a view to providing, with as

great an economy of space as possible, all that may reasonably be considered necessary or desirable for the comfort and convenience of the patients, the main object being to produce the atmosphere of a home rather than of a hospital.

THE TREATMENT BLOCK

consists of two floors, and contains, among others, rooms for hydrotherapy, colon lavage, massage, light treatment, electrical treatment and research, the appliances in each case being of the most approved principle and of the latest type.

In this block also will be found, in addition to the three laboratories, the dispensary, dental surgery, X-ray room, photographic dark-room, and a room intended for occupational therapy.

THE KITCHEN BLOCK,

having a separate entrance at the back of the site in Grand Avenue, comprises on the ground floor the kitchen, pantries, staff room, store rooms, and linen rooms. Underneath it are situated the boilers, which operate the low-pressure hot-water heating system and the domestic hot-water supply to all the buildings of the hospital. These are designed for the consumption of oil fuel, whereby smoke and dirt are avoided.

THE OUT-PATIENTS' DEPARTMENT,

which it is hoped may usefully be developed in the future, is situated in the administration block, and consists of a waiting room and an examination room, with which are associated two physical examination rooms.

STAFF.

The medical staff consists of Dr. R. W. Gilmour, Physician-in-Charge, Dr. Macpherson Lawrie, Deputy Physician-in-Charge, an honorary visiting staff of six, a dental surgeon and a radiologist. The Matron is Miss L. A. Hunt, S.R.N.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editors of the 'Journal of Mental Science.'

SIR,—May I be permitted a reply to Major Dhunjibhoj's letter in the *Journal* of January, 1931, which has reference to an article of mine which he has evidently misunderstood or forgotten? This fact renders most of his letter irrelevant, and it is full of misrepresentations of my paper (published in your issue of July, 1930), to which I must refer him for reply to many of the points he now raises. His letter emphasizes the difficulty I had already foreshadowed of securing an unbiased inquiry, a difficulty which is clearly not so "fantastical" as he imagines. Though he "entirely disagrees" with my suggestion that inbreeding is a cause of dementia præcox, he cannot, and does not, deny that the custom of the marriage of cousins has prevailed among the Parsees for some 1,200 years. Your correspondent does not apparently realize that there is a certain amount of inbreeding in all countries. As already stated, I do not know of any other clear-cut group such as the Parsees constitute, and dementia præcox is endemic among them. Major Dhunjibhoj also does not appear to understand that my figures deal with consecutive cases, from all classes of Parsees, educated and uneducated, though I thought I had made this sufficiently clear. While himself stating no personal experience, he writes, "It is not understood why Col. Shaw has assumed that the alleged increase of dementia præcox is particularly high among the Parsees." I have not "assumed" any "alleged increase," but have made a definite statement of my experience of the remarkable prevalence of that disease among the insane of the Parsee community, with the details of which your correspondent's figures, relating to other nationalities, bear no comparison.