

prepare his food, administer the remedies prescribed, observe and report on his condition, and cope with emergencies which are likely to arise. These are no easy tasks, but they do not require knowledge of the innominate artery, the kinds of blood-corpusele, the metabolism of glycogen, or the functions of lymphatic vessels. Such information will doubtless increase a student's interest in the human body, and within limits it is valuable; but it is seldom, if ever, of immediate practical importance in nursing; it is an extra, and should be regarded as such. To know about the varieties of ulceration of the cervix and the dietetic treatment of eczema is only necessary for those whose work is done under special conditions of isolation or responsibility. The present examination seems to demand knowledge which it is hard to gain without either long experience or a special training which cannot be given to every probationer. The result is a tendency towards widespread cramming. The immediate need, alike from the point of view of the public, the medical profession, and the nurses themselves, is for a more copious supply of women who wish to take up nursing. Good material is almost certainly available, and it would be a pity if the enthusiasm of suitable people were inhibited by too ambitious a scheme of education. Excess of book-work means a heavy strain on the minds and spirits of probationers. Any loss of good recruits from this cause seems especially regrettable when it is realized that theoretical knowledge is at best an unsatisfactory criterion for the selection of nurses.

[This is reprinted from the *Lancet*, March 5, 1927, by kind permission of the Editor, not as a gesture of disapproval of the State Nursing Examinations, but as apropos of the remarks made by the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorders on the severity of the Nursing Examinations of the Association which we criticized in a recent "Occasional Note."—Eds.]

THE MENTAL AFTER-CARE ASSOCIATION.

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S APPEAL.

At the meeting on March 31, 1927, at the Mansion House, of the After-Care Association, presided over by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales (whose speech is reported on p. 285), Dr. R. Percy Smith, chairman of the Council of the Association, announced the result of the above appeal. He said that by the courtesy of the British Broadcasting Corporation, their President, Sir Charles Wakefield, was enabled to make an appeal from Daventry last Sunday, the latest result of which was £1,125 7s. 7d., which brought the aggregate result of the Prince of Wales's special appeal to date up to £8,409 10s. (Cheers.)

The LORD MAYOR (Sir Rowland Blades, M.P.) expressed the Association's thanks to the Prince, and referred to the many causes which his Royal Highness had advocated at the Mansion House. It was only a month ago that the Prince delivered an important speech in that hall on the subject of British industry. He doubted, however, if among all the charities which had had the advantage of the Prince's advocacy and support, there had ever been one so pathetic and touching as that which they had been dealing with that day. (Cheers.) The after-care of poor patients discharged from mental hospitals was an object deserving of their greatest commiseration and pity. The hurrying of such patients into work and the worry of family anxieties before they were fully restored to mental and physical health contributed to a recurrence of their maladies. The objects of the Association in preventing such results had his warmest approval and his deepest sympathy. (Cheers.)

SIR CHARLES WAKEFIELD also expressed the Association's gratitude for the Princes' espousing what was comparatively an unknown cause. Through the Princes' championship their work had secured many hundreds of new friends.

Among those present on the platform were:

The Lady Mayoress, Mr. Sheriff Shepherd and Mr. Sheriff Vincent, Lord Sandhurst, Sir Robert Armstrong-Jones, Sir Marriott Cooke, Sir Lionel Phillips, Sir George Wyatt Truscott, Sir Frederick Milner, Sir Frederick Willis, Dr. C. Hubert Bond, Dr. Nathan Raw, Sir Lisle Webb, Lt.-Col. J. R. Lord, Dr. C. Hamilton Marr, the Rev. F. A. H. Hawkins (son of the Founder of the Association), Mrs. Dunn Gardner, Dr. David Ogilvy, Dr. R. Worth, Dr. J. Porter-Phillips and Mr. H. F. Keene.