

and Re-winding Rooms for Cinema performances, and is electrically equipped for Talking Pictures and Wireless relays to all buildings.

"The natural beauties of the site have been largely preserved in the formation and laying out of the grounds and gardens, which has formed an integral part of the scheme. There are considerable acreages of woodland, and it is proposed to clear the undergrowth and transform them into pleasaunces for the recreational exercise of patients. There are Tennis Courts and Grounds for all kinds of sports and games, open lands, and peaceful country-side for walking."

A fuller description, with photographs and plans, appeared in *The Lancet* for June 2, 1934. Here it need only be added that the beauty of the site, the comfort of the patients, as well as the staff accomodation, and the completeness of the equipment impressed very favourably all who attended the opening ceremony.

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#### OBITUARY.

##### Dr. HENRY WATSON SMITH.

In the sudden death at æt. 55 of Dr. Watson Smith from angina pectoris on June 12 psychiatric medicine has lost a great character, and the Near East a great pioneer who carried skilled medical aid of a high order into a country which only a short time ago was dominated by the idea that all mental disorder was a matter of possession by devils: treatment, therefore, was by exorcism carried out by the Maronite priests in the cave of Kuzheya situated in the Batroon district of the Lebanon. There the "madjaneen", under the restraint of chains, and of considerable cruelty under the title "exorcism", died in considerable numbers, and thereupon the monks reported that St. Anthony himself had released the patient, and demanded heavy fees from the relatives.

It is under these conditions that the Lebanon Hospital at Asfuriyeh was founded in 1898 by Theophilus Waldmeier, after consultation with many English and Scottish psychiatrists: a central committee was formed in London; Dr. Percy Smith was the first Chairman, and is now the President of the Hospital.

Dr. Watson Smith was a graduate of Aberdeen University (Hons., 1901). After a short period of training in psychiatry at Peckham House and Durham County Mental Hospital, he was selected by the London Committee in 1909 to be Medical Superintendent of the Lebanon Hospital, and he took up his duties after first obtaining a Turkish medical degree at Constantinople.

It was a very small place when taken over by Dr. Watson Smith, but under his assiduous and whole-hearted care and skilled advice, improvement was added to improvement, and extension to extension, until it became established as a fine hospital, built on the pavilion system, well equipped with all modern appliances for the treatment of mental disorders, surrounded by beautifully laid-out grounds on a delightful site overlooking the Mediterranean. Under his guidance the idea of demonomania and its treatment by exorcism was practically abolished, and a new era of humanitarianism and science established in its place. It is perhaps of interest to note that this hospital is as free from legal restrictions as a hospital for bodily disease, for there is no certification, and there is even a greater degree of ease and freedom than is given in this country under the Mental Treatment Act.

A great deal of Dr. Watson Smith's success in all his work was due to his personality; it is probably not often that a man is so successful in getting into his exactly correct niche in life. His missionary and pioneer spirit, his patient but steady pursuit of a preconceived end, and his ready adaptability were of the utmost value in the surroundings in which he found himself, and his high ideals, conscientiousness and sincerity were traits impressed on his Committee on all occasions.

He thought, worked and achieved much, and though he wrote little, the prestige of his hospital and his personal influence were widely felt throughout the whole of the Near East; as Professor of Psychiatry in the American University at Beirut, he trained students who year after year carried with them the modern ideas of mental disorder and its treatment to the remote parts of Egypt, Iraq, Turkey and Persia.

Dr. Watson Smith spoke both French and Arabic with ease, and was consulted by patients of all nationalities and religions from a very wide area. He was the only British subject allowed to remain in Syria during the war, and as the hospital and its grounds had been declared "wakf", the Turkish Commander, Jemal Pasha, was unable to make use of the advantageous hill site for his gun emplacements.

He received the O.B.E. for services to General Allenby's men in 1918, and in November, 1933, on the completion of twenty-five years' service, he was awarded by the President of the Lebanon Republic the highest decoration that is given to foreigners, namely, the 2nd class of the Médaille d'honneur du Mérite Libanais.

J. R. W.

#### PSYCHOPATHOLOGY AND PSYCHOTHERAPY SUB-COMMITTEE.

##### LONDON LOCAL GROUP.

Amongst the aims of the Sub-Committee has been the one to promote exchange of ideas, and the formation of informal groups of workers interested in psychopathology. One such group is the London Discussion Circle, which meets, under the leadership of Dr. M. E. Franklin, at 8.30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month, at 3, Bulstrode Street, Welbeck Street, W. 1.

Formed in January, 1928, it has held an uninterrupted course of most successful meetings, the average attendance being eighteen or nineteen. The subjects discussed have been very varied, and a sample selection is given below :

Types of suicidal attempts.  
Mental testing in psychosis.  
Repetition.  
Behaviourism, *Gestalt* and psycho-analysis.  
Is psycho-analytic investigation scientific?  
Hadfield's psychotherapy.  
Asocial children.  
The psychopathology of civilized communities.  
Constructive psychotherapy.  
Feelings of isolation in mental disorder.  
Neurotic symptoms in healthy people.  
The selection of the method of treatment.  
The psycho-biological views of Adolf Meyer.  
A type of frigidity in women.  
Drawing, modelling and writing of children.  
Sex jealousy as an artefact of culture.  
Genetic relationships of paranoia and hysteria.  
Psychological factors in contraception.

The value of such informal meetings can hardly be over-estimated, and it is not surprising to find how popular these meetings have proved. Anyone interested, within reach of London, and who wishes to join, should communicate directly with Dr. Franklin at Bulstrode Street, or with the Secretary of the Sub-Committee.

As a reminder, it might be added that the Sub-Committee is anxious not only to see other such groups formed in provincial centres, but to assist in any way it can study and research in the psychological aspects of mental disorder, and especially would it welcome any suggestion of joint or concerted action on any likely investigation to which the group method might be applicable.

J. ERNEST NICOLE,

*Hon. Secretary.*

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The Library is open to members between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Books are issued to borrowers between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., and between 2.30 and 4.30 p.m.; Saturdays, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

The Hon. Librarian will endeavour to obtain, as far as possible, any books on psychiatry and allied subjects required by members.

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2. No member may borrow from the Library more than three volumes at one time.
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