

should be a "half-way house" between confinement and liberty—possible ultimate liberty, of which cases should have the opportunity of proving themselves worthy. My idea is such "probation home or hostel" should be the residence of the medical mental expert for the county, that he should have under him a resident head attendant and head nurse for the male and female sides. To this hostel could be sent those borderland difficult cases, on the mentality of whom it is *impossible* to decide at a single interview. To this home cases could be sent on remand; they would be under supervision possibly for some time, and after the decision about their mental state had been arrived at, that decision could be reported to the justices before whom they had come in the first instance.

This hostel should be a real training home in which males and females could be taught what they were found to be most fitted for, and by the practice of which they might be able to earn a living. As they made good progress they would gradually be allowed more and more liberty. The period of probation would be renewed and extended, but all the while, until discharged, the certificates would hold good, and in case of necessity—for breaches of discipline, insubordination, misconduct or for other reasons—the cases could be sent back to where they came from or to institutions thought perhaps more suitable for their particular grade, to continue in confinement.

The finding of a suitable "guardian" for these cases on probation is an extremely difficult matter. There is a "Society for the After-care of the Insane"—there does not seem to be one "for the after-care of the feeble-minded." It seems to me here is a large field for voluntary philanthropy, if the State cannot at present undertake the matter.

But I hope an amended Act will insist upon the provision of such "half-way houses" by the local authorities.

By such an Act visiting justices ought to be invested with similar powers to those they possess under the Lunacy Act—"but that is another story."

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#### DEATH OF DR. MERCIER.

##### CRIMINOLOGIST AND PHYSICIAN.

In Dr. Charles Arthur Mercier, whose death occurred at Bournemouth yesterday, the world of medicine in the department of psychiatry loses one of its most brilliant and distinguished ornaments. A subtle dialectician, a keen and logical debater, a psychologist, and a philosopher, he was also a practical alienist physician.

Of Huguenot extraction, and the son of a clergyman, he spent his early life in Scotland, and he owed much to a capable and generous-minded mother, to whose memory he was always unflinchingly loyal. The family being left badly off on his father's death, he joined a ship's crew and went to Mogador, and afterwards entered a woollen warehouse in the City. He then took to medicine, and from the outset of his career as a student in the London Hospital he was marked for success. His high graduation at the London University, together with his obtaining of the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, seemed to foreshadow distinction for him in the more purely practical aspect of the medical profession, but the bent of his mind was towards introspection and analysis. His great admiration for Spencer, the philosopher of evolution, and his devotion to his teacher and friend, Dr. Hughlings Jackson, led him to study mental diseases and neurology. He gained an extensive as well as an intimate and accurate knowledge of insanity in its various aspects by holding the post of medical officer in two large public asylums—the Bucks County Asylum and the City of London Asylum at Stone—and until the last few years he was the resident physician of a private asylum near London, where he was the personal and devoted friend of the patients under his care. He was greatly attracted to the legal aspects of mental diseases, and the quality of his mind might best be described as forensic and analytic. His stern logic led him at times to appear to over-advocate a weak claim. Dr. Mercier was essentially the champion of the weak against the strong. It was through his support and strenuous advocacy that a Bill was more than once introduced by Lord Halsbury, then Lord Chancellor, into the House of Lords to legalise the

treatment of insanity in its incipient stages, for insanity was only too well known to Dr. Mercier to be curable indirectly in proportion to its duration. He continued to urge with unremitting persistence the necessity for increasing the number of the scandalously overworked Lunacy Commissioners.

An effective speaker, Dr. Mercier might have attained even greater distinction in the legal profession than that which he achieved in psychiatric medicine. He was an invaluable member of a deputation, for his cold convincing logic could be relied upon in the face of countless difficulties to justify his point or to prove his argument. Those who were favoured with his confidence appreciated his striking independence, his clear intellectual ability, and his strong moral nature. His friendship was real for those he liked, even when these disagreed from him. His unflinching courage made him a strong opponent, yet, unlike many combatants, he had no venom in his nature. In debate he was as often effective by a humorous exposure as by his uncompromising logic. As a writer he was clear, incisive, and accurate—almost a purist in the use of the English language. He was as widely known in America as he was in this country, and a visit he paid to Boston a few years ago brought him an enthusiastic welcome from the charmed circle of lawyers, medical men, and literary critics of the American academic world.

Dr. Mercier's most intimate work for the benefit of the insane was chiefly known to mental experts, who were his colleagues on the Council of the Medico-Psychological Association, as well as on its Parliamentary and Educational Committee, where his special qualities were most valued and appreciated. Some time back he served as President of the Medico-Psychological Association as well as of the Psychiatry section of the British Medical Association Congress at Oxford. He was a member of the Departmental Committee in regard to the treatment of inebriety, and he gave expert evidence before the Royal Commission on the Care and Control of the Feeble-minded as the representative of the Royal College of Physicians of London. Like his teacher, Herbert Spencer, he had a great power of generalisation based upon a wide acquaintance with biology and the natural sciences. Besides special text-books upon psychology, he contributed articles to medical and other periodical literature as well as to various encyclopædias and dictionaries. He also contributed a number of letters to *The Times*. London University (for which he was examiner in his special subject) awarded him the degree of Doctor of Medicine in Mental Diseases, accompanied by its gold medal for special merit. He was a member of many learned societies, and he took a particular interest in the work of the Medico-Legal Society. He was a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. It was only last January that the Swiney Prize was awarded to him for his work on *Crime and Criminals*; this was the second time that that honour had been conferred on him, for ten years ago he won it for his book on *Criminal Responsibility*. In 1910 he stood, though unsuccessfully, for the Waynflete Chair of Philosophy at Oxford, and soon afterwards his *New Logic* appeared, a volume in which he attacked what he conceived to be Aristotelian logic with great vigour, but with an insufficient comprehension of the subject. Indeed, logic, both theoretical and practical, was not always his strong point, logician though he claimed to be; and in his miscellaneous writings, outside his own special subjects, there were occasional faults of reasoning. But in a comparatively short life he did a prodigious quantity of hard, intellectual work, and his interests were so many that it is not surprising if in his *parerga* his pen sometimes ran away with him.

He was married, but his wife predeceased him for a number of years, and he has left no family.

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A correspondent writes:

Might I be allowed to add a note to your obituary notice of Dr. Mercier? Dr. Mercier was twice married. His first wife died a considerable number of years ago. In 1913 he married Miss Mary MacDougall, whose early death in 1915 was a severe blow to him, coming as it did at a time when the progressive failure of health which marked the last fifteen years of his life had reached a stage which would have quelled a less robust spirit. Since then he had been living more or less in seclusion at Bournemouth. But physical infirmity was never able to damp his intellectual ardour. Practically bereft of sight and hearing, he none the

less kept up his literary and speculative interests, and only a few weeks ago was writing to a friend of a new book that he had a mind to write. His intellectual zest and keenness were undimmed. His death was quite unexpected, and was due to pleurisy contracted at the end of last week.—*Times*, September 4th, 1919.

### EXAMINATION FOR NURSING CERTIFICATE.

#### *List of Successful Candidates.*

#### FINAL EXAMINATION, MAY, 1919.

- Chester County.*—Margaret Langton, Edith Taylor, Beatrice Lewis, Edith Emily Williams, Betty Williams.
- Cheshire, Macclesfield.*—Cecilia Moore, Minnie Wigglesworth, Elizabeth Ellen O'Connor.
- Cumberland and Westmorland.*—Ethel Mary Howe.
- Dorchester.*—Beatrice May Message, Anna Hennessey, Dorothy Isabel Evett, Annie Maud Mary Atkins, Agnes Bridget McDonnell.
- Essex, Severalls.*—Mabel Blanche Button, Evelyn Gray, Florence Reddiford, Mabel Gertrude Taylor.
- Glamorgan, Bridgend.*—Catherine A. Thomas, Muriel Owen, Bridget Alysions Neville, Winifred Elinor Preece.
- Kent, Barming Heath.*—Hannah Helene E. Hardingue, Eva Gladys Wood, Phyllis Mary Evans, Gladys May Bishop, Hannah J. Kirby, Veronica Mawdsley, Laura Violet Killian.
- Kent, Chatham.*—Mary Hotton, Amy A. Wellard, Mary Angus.
- City of London.*—Ethel Florence Tucker.
- Cane Hill.*—Mary Connell, Rose Elizabeth Martin, Daisy Ella Martin, Elsie May Payne, Harriette May Paull, Nellie Louisa Mary Perrey, Gladys Garrood Smith, Leelia Kearney.
- Hanwell.*—Isabella Davies, Marie Plumb, Minnie Elizabeth Lelean, Louise Scott.
- Long Grove.*—Rose Alice Ethel Message, Annie Jane Jones, Honoria Martha Byrne, Lilian Margaret Blythe, Albert James Ring.
- Colney Hatch.*—Alice Taylor, Nora Annie Coles, Myra Compton, May Good, Margaret K. M. Westcott, Jessie Myrtle Bingham.
- Banstead.*—Winifred Constance Bright, Phyllis Stribbling, Elizabeth Rose Neighbour, Lucy Jordan, Margaret Priscilla Day, May Gladys Waylan, Florence Ada Devey, Lucy Eleanor Pownall, Jessie Elsie Dawson.
- Fountains Temporary.*—Jessie Macdiarmid, Edith Morrison.
- Napsbury.*—Annie Laundon, Lucy Downes, Elsie G. Rogers, Ethel Mary Davis, Annie Keziah Richardson.
- Notts County.*—Florrie Leeson, Annie Gamble, Betsey Todd, Irene Ethel Godber.
- Shropshire County.*—Frances Nellie Dodd.
- Staffs, Burntwood.*—Annie Gibson.
- Staffs, Cheddleton.*—Mary Ellen Watters, Gladys Ethel Chaplin, Charity Elinor Rooney, Mary Frances Coyle.
- Sussex, Hellingley.*—Ada Kathleen Redfern, Rose Brett, Bertha Elizabeth Miles, Margaret Mary Clarkson.
- Worcestershire, Barnsley Hall.*—Harry Milhouse Storr, Frank Walton, Ellen Lee Tomkys.
- Birmingham, Winson Green.*—Emma Benton, Rose Adelaide Shilvock.
- Hull City.*—Maude Miller, Agnes Senior, Annie Hunt, Jenny Bate, Emmeline Grayshon, Annie Kirby.
- Leicester Borough.*—Mabel Wakefield, Isabella Catherine Johnston, Lillian Soar, Edith King.
- Notts City.*—Blodwen Davies, Jane Riley, Daisy Branston.
- Sunderland Borough.*—Ronald W. G. Dean, Mary Hewitt.
- York City.*—\*Elizabeth Rains.
- Norwich City.*—Winifrede Alice Mayes.
- Bethlem Hospital.*—Rose Amelins Huss, Alice Maud Martin.