

The treatment and training have resulted in an improvement in the mental condition and behaviour of the patients, so that it has been possible to return many of them to the care of the Local Authorities, or to a supervised life in the community.

It is proposed to extend the workshops to provide further facilities for training the troublesome lower grade men and women; and special arrangements are being made for the training and occupation of some groups of the most dangerous adult male patients who have hitherto proved to be unemployable outside the ward group.

The proportion of patients employed varies from 90 to 95%. It is hoped that with the new arrangements it may be possible to improve on this figure.

The new admissions during the year 1933 were 51 male and 52 female patients, of whom 7 were under the age of 16 years. The net increase during the year of patients in the State Institution (Rampton and Moss Side branches) amounted to 43. The death-rate was 8.6 per thousand. The average cost per patient, excluding the capital cost of buildings, is 26s. 6d. per week.

The staff recreational activities are centred in the Recreation Club, a building to which all members of the staff have access. There is a shop, a post-office, and it is a duly licensed club. The bar is open only to male members.

The cost of the swimming bath, the hard tennis courts, the bowling green and the petrol pumps was met out of club funds.

The Honorary Secretary and the Management Committee are elected by vote at the annual meeting. The Committee employ their own staff, four in number, to run the club. The Board maintain the club buildings, provide part of the furniture, and supply coal and light free of charge.

BOARD OF CONTROL,
April, 1934.

A comprehensive display of the products of the patients' occupations was on view in the Recreation Hall.

After luncheon members were conducted in parties round the villas, workshops and occupational class rooms; they also saw a gymnastic display by boy patients, and a demonstration of camping and first-aid by the patients' scout troop.

Tea was then provided, after which Dr. Schneider showed a number of typical cases, giving notes of their histories and progress while in the institution.

It was generally felt that the meeting had been a most successful one, and that a very profitable day had been spent in observing the methods used and the impressive results achieved with the very difficult types of cases treated at this institution.

OPENING OF SHENLEY MENTAL HOSPITAL BY H.M. THE KING.

On May 31 last the new Middlesex County Mental Hospital at Shenley was formally declared open by H.M. the King, who was accompanied by H.M. the Queen.

In our issue for January, 1931, there appears an account of a similar ceremony when, in the King's unavoidable absence, H.M. the Queen opened the new buildings of Bethlem Royal Hospital. The present, however, is the first occasion on which a county mental hospital has been thus honoured.

In the address presented to Their Majesties by the Visiting Committee of the Hospital, the Royal visit was referred to as "another token of that constant solicitude for the care of the sick which has so especially endeared Your Majesties in the hearts of your subjects; and a source of gratification and encouragement not only to those concerned with this Mental Hospital, but to all who are engaged in the various Mental Health Services throughout the Country".

The following was the King's reply:

HIS MAJESTY THE KING'S REPLY.

"I thank you for your loyal and dutiful address.

"It is a pleasure to The Queen and myself to be present to-day and to associate ourselves with the opening of the Shenley Mental Hospital.

"The care of the sick is at all times a matter of deep concern to us. I am glad to have this opportunity of expressing my interest in the Mental Health Service, and my appreciation of the devotion and skill of those engaged in this work.

"In recent years important advances have been made in the ideas governing the treatment of mental illness, and the Act to which you have referred has enlarged the opportunities for applying these new methods. It is necessary that such progress should be reflected in the provision which Local Authorities make for the mentally afflicted under their care. I note with satisfaction that, in designing this Mental Hospital, you have paid special regard to the treatment of early mental illness by the provision of the Reception Hospital, which I look forward to seeing to-day.

"I am glad that you have provided a Nurses' Home. Such provision not only contributes to the contentment and well-being of the nurses, but has a profound influence upon the recruitment of this important branch of the Hospital Staff.

"I congratulate the Middlesex County Council, the Visiting Committee, and the Board of Control, upon the manner in which this important enterprise has been conceived and carried out. I trust that under God's blessing this Hospital may prove to be truly a place of healing for the mentally afflicted; and that the opportunities for service in these beautiful surroundings may be an inspiration to all who are called upon to work here. I have much pleasure in declaring the Shenley Mental Hospital open."

The following description of the Hospital is abstracted from the official programme :

DESCRIPTION AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE NEW MENTAL HOSPITAL.

"The new Hospital is situated in grounds of about 500 acres at Porters Park, Shenley, stands 420 feet above sea level, and is placed amidst the natural beauties of park and farm lands with orchards and gardens.

"The foundation stone was laid on the 9th of July, 1932, by County Alderman Sir William Lobjoit, O.B.E., J.P., Chairman of the Committee, and the work was finished towards the end of 1933, and has been carried out within the contract price of £520,336.

"The buildings comprise the first section of the scheme and provide accommodation for 1,047 patients and the entire administrative centre for the full development for 2,000 patients and approximately 500 staff. The Hospital is planned on the Villa System with small nursing units ranging from 20 to 45 patients.

"The Administrative Centre has been built on an axial line running North and South, the Hospital buildings and villas for male and for female patients being placed East and West of it respectively. The site is somewhat conical in shape and the arrangement of the lay-out has been governed to a large extent by the contours, but all buildings have a main southerly aspect.

"The Reception Hospital, flanked by two small Recovery or Convalescent Villas, is situated at the South end of the centre axis and the plan arrangement of these buildings with their Day-rooms, Dormitories, Dining Rooms, and Private Rooms, Quiet Rooms, Ward Kitchens, Lavatories and Bathrooms, is representative of the policy throughout the whole Hospital to approximate to home conditions on communal lines. These considerations also have governed the furnishing and equipping of the buildings.

"Patients dine in their own unit dining rooms, and the food is distributed from the central kitchen in insulated containers conveyed on electric trolley trucks.

"Due north from the Reception Hospital and along the axial line, the progression of Administrative Buildings consists of the Main Administrative Offices, the Medical and Surgical Unit, the Recreation Hall, the Central Kitchen, operated by Electricity and Steam, Cold Storage Larders, the Steward's Store, Central Boiler House, and Water Tower with the General and Staff Laundries situated close at hand.

"The remainder of the Hospital buildings for Male and for Female Patients are grouped east and west of the central range respectively. These buildings include Infirmeries for both sexes. The extreme north slope of the site is occupied by two Isolation Hospitals.

"There are Occupational Buildings for men and for women, in which patients will receive instruction in trades and crafts of all kinds.

"The Mortuary on the north-east slope of the hill comprises a Chapel, Visiting Room, Post-Mortem Room, and other necessary accommodation.

"The Maids' Home stands on the west side of the Hill and the Nurses' Home is situated on the southern side of the site. Both these buildings are planned to suit staff grading with bedrooms, suites, lavatories, bathrooms, washing and ironing, and shampoo rooms, dining rooms, recreational rooms, quiet rooms, and other amenities. The Nurses' Home contains 111 bedrooms and will eventually be enlarged to meet the extensions of the scheme. All food for the Nurses' Home is prepared in the Home Kitchen.

"The Hospital is fully equipped with Operating Theatre, Dental and other Clinics, X-ray, Special Treatment Rooms, Dispensary and Laboratories, and all other working or Social units.

"The Recreation Hall has seating accommodation for 1,000, and is equipped with Projection

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.

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.